

SECOND  
REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

MUSEUMS OF THE SCIENCE AND ART  
DEPARTMENT;

WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,*  
*29 July 1898.*

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1898.



MUSEUMS OF THE SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT.

[Wednesday, 2nd March 1898]:—Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into and Report upon the Administration and Cost of the Museums of the Science and Art Department.

Committee nominated of,—

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.

Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Platt-Higgins.  
Sir Francis Sharp Powell.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Yoxall.

THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records

THAT Five be the Quorum.

[Thursday, 10th March 1898]:—Ordered, THAT the Report and Evidence of the Select Committee on Museums of the Science and Art Department, Session 1897, be referred to the Select Committee on Museums of the Science and Art Department

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE	- - - - -	p. xxxix



## SECOND REPORT.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to Inquire into and Report upon the  
ADMINISTRATION and COST of the MUSEUMS of the SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT;  
—HAVE agreed to the following SECOND REPORT:—

### I.—PRELIMINARY.

YOUR Committee, in continuation of the inquiry of last Session, which occupied 27 Sittings, have met 26 times and have further examined Sir John Donnelly and other Members of the Staff of the several Museums concerned in the inquiry, as also Mr. W. J. Courthope, the First Civil Service Commissioner, and Mr. Spring Rice, Principal Clerk to the Treasury. They have received evidence from Sir H. Roscoe, who submitted a memorial from the Royal Society, and also from Professor Hull on the collection in Jermyn Street. The Lord Bishop of Stepney gave evidence as to the Bethnal Green Museum, as did also others who reside in that district. Mr. Wallis, Director of the Museum and Art Gallery of Birmingham, did the like respecting Birmingham and other Provincial Museums, and Mr. Graves, Secretary to the Irish Charity Commissioners, explained his views on the Dublin Museum and the requirements of Ireland. Witnesses from two of the University Colleges in Wales appeared before your Committee, and urged the importance of establishing the Museums of the Colleges which constitute the Universities as Museums for the Principality in the same way as those of Edinburgh and Dublin serve Scotland and Ireland.

### II.—THE MUSEUMS TO WHICH THE INQUIRY RELATES.

The Museums of the Science and Art Department, upon the cost and administration of which your Committee was appointed to inquire and report, are—

1. The South Kensington and Branch Museum at Bethnal Green,
2. The Geological Museum, Jermyn Street.
3. The Dublin Museum of Science and Art.
4. The Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art.

### DESCRIPTIVE NOTICES.

#### (A.)—THE SOUTH KENSINGTON AND BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUMS.

The history of the Museum has been so often given in official documents of many kinds that nothing is necessary for this report beyond a short description of the circumstances under which they have been formed.

In the year 1836 a sum of 1,500*l.* was voted for the establishment of a Normal School of Design with a Museum and Lectures. For this purpose the Council of the Government School of Design “was then constituted, the members being unpaid, with the Vice-President of the Board of Trade as an ex-officio member. The School was opened in Somerset House. In 1841 Government decided to make use of this agency to “assist Schools of Design in the manufacturing districts, giving annual

Kal., Science  
and Art Dep.,  
p. viii.



grants for the training of and payment of teachers, for the purchase of casts, and preparation of models for the students."

In 1852 the Council was abolished and the "Department of Practical Art" was substituted, with Mr. H. Cole as general superintendent, and Mr. R. Redgrave, R.A., as art adviser.

Kalendar,  
Science and  
Art, 1898.

Kalendar, p. xl.

Besides re-organising the Schools of Design and instituting a national scheme for promoting practical instruction in Drawing and Decorative Art generally, the Department of Practical Art commenced in this year, the formation of the Collections of Art, the nucleus of the Art Museum at South Kensington—to "illustrate the progress and highest excellence attained in manufacture, both as to material, workmanship, and decoration."

In 1853 a science division was added, and "The Department of Science and Art" was formed. This Department continued under the Board of Trade until the constitution, by Order in Council, of the Education Department in February 1856, to include the educational establishment of the Privy Council Office and "The Department of Science and Art." These two Departments were placed under the Lord President of the Committee of Council on Education assisted by a Vice-President. The subsequent stages of removal to Marlborough House and South Kensington are matters of administration arising out of expansion rather than of change of policy. The Parliamentary Grants of 64,675*l.* in 1856-7 had grown to 815,992*l.* in the year 1897-8. But these changes have never disturbed the original definition of 1852, that one of the objects of the new Department was to be "the application of the principles of technical art to the improvement of manufactures, together with the establishment of museums by which all classes might be induced to investigate these common principles of taste which may be traced in the works of excellence of all ages."

Mem. on  
circulation,  
App. 5 A, s. 3.

App. 5 A.

In 1854 Circulation among the Schools of Art of articles belonging to the Central Museum, with strict provision for public exhibition, was commenced, "with a view to aid the instruction and encourage the formation of Local Museums." The object was distinctly educational. Loans to Local Schools were then for the first time made, and have continued much on the present lines since that time. Some difficulty in practice having arisen as to circulation a travelling collection was formed, but after six years, having fulfilled its objects, was dispersed.

In the following year the travelling collection was reorganised, but in the year 1864 was found to have done its work, having been exhibited in all parts of the country during nearly ten years. The present system of circulation by separate loans, as distinguished from a regular travelling collection, was then finally adopted. At this period Local Museums began to be established in many districts, and in 1880, under the presidency of Earl Spencer and the vice-presidency of Mr. Mundella, still further encouragement was given to Local Museums, whether connected with Schools of Art or not, by loans to them from the Circulation Department. Among other reasons for this expansion were the magnificent donation of the Sheepshank's Collection in 1857 and the greater liberality of Parliament, and also the proof by experience that articles of a fragile and delicate character can, with certain exceptions, be transported in safety under strict regulations.

Donations and purchases illustrating various branches of art have from time to time extended the original character and scope of the Museum.

The number of visitors to the South Kensington Museum in 1896 was 1,135,797, and in 1897, 1,017,314. The number of visitors on Sundays in 1897 (the first complete year) was 100,044. Up to the end of 1897, 36,056,660 persons had visited the Museum. Admission is free on the West Side of Exhibition Road. On the East or Art Side admission is made on payment of 6*d.* on three days in the week. For the purposes of study the following visits are recorded as having made use of the Museum in 1896. South Kensington Museum students, 15,687; other students, 9,979; periodical ticket holders who came for purposes of study, 7,880; total, 33,546. In the year 1897 the numbers were, South Kensington Museum students, 19,242; other students, 9,467; periodical ticket holders, 7,978; total, 36,687. The annual attendance of visitors at the South Kensington Museum and Bethnal Green Museum since 1897 is stated in Appendix No. 31 of the Report of 1897.



## (B.)—THE BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUM.

In 1866 the larger part of the temporary iron buildings at South Kensington was removed to make room for a permanent structure, and was employed in building the branch Museum at Bethnal Green for the reception of objects of science and art insufficiently provided for at South Kensington. The building was opened in 1872. The Bethnal Green Museum is a branch of the South Kensington Museum, and is worked by the same staff. The Wallace collection, the Dulwich Collection of Pictures, Sir A. Wollaston Franks' Collection, the Massey-Mainwaring Collection, the Collection of Sir Cuthbert Quilter, M.P., were, by the public spirit and liberality of the owners, here exhibited of late years. The art collections are renewed from time to time. Of late years special industrial exhibitions have been held, including such objects as woven silk fabrics, coloured designs for such silks from Spitalfields weavers' pattern books. There was shown in 1896 a large collection of furniture arranged chronologically. In the present year there is an exhibition of shoes, some of remote antiquity, others of the present date, with illustrations by examples of different stages in the process of manufacture. There are also at Bethnal Green extensive modern art collections.

The number of visitors in 1896 was 383,709, in 1897, 366,103. The number on Sundays (1897) was 41,788. The number up to the end of 1897 is stated to be 13,807,434. Admission is free.

Kal., p. lxxv  
44th Report,  
p. liii.44th Report,  
p. lii.

## (C.)—THE MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, JERMYN STREET.

This museum originated from a representation by Sir H. de la Beche to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1835. The Museum in Jermyn Street was opened in May, 1851. It was designed to illustrate the geology of Great Britain and Ireland, and to show the practical application of geological and metallurgical science. It therefore contains specimens illustrative of ores, the modes of treating them, and also of mineral substances used in construction and decoration. It has been enriched by gifts, among others by that of minerals by the late Mr. Ludlam. There is also a valuable rock collection which now forms a basis for the practical study of the rocks of the British Isles. The collection is intended to illustrate the stratigraphical geology of the United Kingdom. There is no public collection which serves this purpose except that at Jermyn Street. It is, moreover, necessary as evidence in confirmation of the geological survey and as illustrating it. The Museum is largely used by advanced students for their own researches.

The teaching has been transferred to South Kensington, to which a large number of models of mines and mining machinery were accordingly removed, as has also the metallurgical section. When the school was transferred, about 10,000 volumes of the Library passed with the Schools, the Geological Museum retaining books which in the Director's opinion were absolutely necessary for the conduct of the survey and for the Museum.

The Museum is technological rather than artistic, but contains a valuable collection of pottery.

The Director of the Jermyn Street Museum reports to the Committee of Council through the Secretary of the Science and Art Department. What remains with him is the administration of the Museum itself. Few purchases are now made, the sum of 240*l.* yearly being the amount voted. Lectures have been given in the Museum with much success.

The number of visitors in 1896 was 34,261 on week-day mornings, 15,609 in the evenings, and 5,547 on Sundays. In 1897 the numbers were 34,719 week-day mornings, 15,108 in the evenings, and 7,944 on Sundays. Admission is free.

Kal. lxxiv.  
Hull, 2987.

44th Report.

5456.

5442.

5456.

44th Report, lv.

## (D.)—THE EDINBURGH SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM.

This Museum is founded upon "The Natural History Museum at Edinburgh," which was established in 1812. It contained Zoological, Geological, and Mineralogical Collections, and was in connection with the University, but received a Government Grant. This Museum, after having been in 1855 transferred by the Town

Kalendar,  
lxxvi.—viii.



Sir R. M. Smith,  
3332.

3327.

3265.

Donnelly, 80, 82.  
Smith, 3428.

Smith, 3276.

3236.

3298.

Town Council, then the Patrons of the University, to the Department of Science and Art (at that time under the Board of Trade), passed in 1856 to the Committee of Council on Education. The Natural History and other collections were transferred from the University as the buildings made progress. These were completed in 1888. In 1864 the name of the Museum was changed to that of the Science and Art Museum. One-third of the Museum is Natural History. The Industrial Collections, commenced in 1851, have been increased by gifts and Parliamentary Grants, and include objects representing the Decorative Arts, Technology, and Engineering. The scope of the Museum is somewhat wider than that of South Kensington. The Art Industry section is valued at 94,628*l.*, the Science side at 28,956*l.*, taking the objects at the prices paid. The Library contains about 12,000 volumes. The value of the Loans from South Kensington is about 6,000*l.*

The Director states that he has always found great advantage and help from the officers at South Kensington. The Director has power to purchase up to the value of 20*l.* All other purchases are made under the authority of the department in London. Purchases are made to a considerable extent to serve trades and industries in Scotland. The present Director is General Sir R. Murdoch Smith, who has had large experience in archaeological work, and formed, while in the East, a representative collection of Persian Art. The Museum is open free on three days a week and two evenings, and on three days a week, for a payment of sixpence. The average number of visitors annually is 360,000. The number in 1896 was 356,748 and in 1897, 338,287. In the year 1896, 3,527 students with free tickets of admission visited the Edinburgh Museum on pay days. In 1897 the number was 3,635. No record is kept of such visits on free days.

The annual attendance of visitors since 1897 is stated in the Appendix No. 29 of the Report of 1897.

#### (E.) DUBLIN SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM.

Plunkett, 4349.

4459.

428.

4356.

4334.

4282-3.

454, 659

4377.

4287.

The Dublin Museum, like that of Edinburgh, was earlier in foundation than the South Kensington Museum, and from the circumstances of its establishment is wider in the range of objects exhibited. The nucleus of the Museum was the Natural History Museum, and a very small Art Museum belonging to the Royal Dublin Society. The collection of the Royal Irish Academy was transferred to the Committee of Council in 1891. The principal branches are now the collection of Irish Antiquities, the richest in Europe, the Art and the Industrial, the Botanical and the Natural History, the Irish Geological Survey, and the General Mineralogical and Geological collections. For the superintendence of the National Library 12 Trustees were appointed when it was transferred to the Committee of Council in 1877, and a Board of Visitors was constituted for their aid in the administration of the Science and Art Museum, the Natural History Collection, and the Botanic Gardens. The functions of these Trustees and Visitors are advisory only, but are found of great value. The present system of administration is described by the Director as excellent. The National Library, which is near the Museum, has also to serve the purposes of an Art Library. When purchases are made regard is had to the wants of the Art Library. There is a small Technical Library for the use of the officers. There is a collection of Irish Lace, of industrial objects, such as looms, specimens of saddlery, and iron work. The great aim is to make the Museum an Educational Institution. The Director desires, among other things, examples of old Irish jewellery and furniture, which latter was a hundred years ago a great Irish industry. He further recommends an extension of the building. "The great part of the Art Collection is overcrowded. There is no space where Zoologists and Students can examine specimens under the microscope. They suffer greatly from want of room." The staff is, moreover, said to be inadequate in point of numbers.

The Director has the same power respecting purchases, as has the Director of the Edinburgh Museum. The present Director is Lieutenant-Colonel Plunkett.

The Museum is open daily, including Sundays, and on one evening in the week one half of the Museum is open, the other half being open on another evening. The Visitors in 1896 were 478,015 and in 1897, 420,315. Admission is free.

The number of Students from the Metropolitan School of Art who visited the Dublin Museum in the Session of 1897-8 was 49, with 90 students of botany and 19 students of zoology.



## III.—THE BUILDINGS AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

## SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM, &amp;c.

The Art Collections, including the Indian and Oriental Museum, are deposited partly in the Main Building to the east of Exhibition Road, and partly in Galleries to the west of that road and to the north of the Imperial Institute Road, which are rented from the Commissioners of the International Exhibition of 1862 and the Imperial Institute. The Science Museum is partly in the Long Galleries on the south of that road to the west of Exhibition Road, the lower part of which was the arcade of the Horticultural Gardens, and the upper story was used as the refreshment rooms of the International Exhibition, 1862. Another part of the Science Museum is in Galleries to the north of that road. The Royal College of Art is in the first and second floors of the Main Building of the South Kensington Museum. The Oriental Collection is placed above a Gallery in the occupation of the Imperial Institute. This distribution of the buildings, scattered as they are over a large area and separated by wide thoroughfares, and in many instances unsuited to their present purposes, causes the greatest inconvenience and heavy expenditure, which would otherwise be unnecessary. The National Gallery of Portraits was temporarily placed in the Southern Galleries, but has long been removed in consequence of imminent danger by fire.

The questions involved go far beyond inconvenience and cost. The main building, although in some parts insufficiently lighted, is, on the whole, well designed for use as a Museum. But the size is totally inadequate. There is, in consequence, great loss of efficiency. Earl Spencer, a former Lord President, complains of "the inadequacy of the Museum, which causes congestion and prevents proper classification of works of Science and Art." Dr. Middleton held the same opinion. Sir John Donnelly, the Secretary, says that the whole collection should be under one roof. There is evidence of much loss of time to the staff under present conditions. The Director for the Art Museum cannot devote the personal attention which he desires. He regards the present position as almost intolerable. It is stated that the objects cannot be satisfactorily exhibited. Mr. P. Clarke says that want of space hampers purchases, and causes the loss of many opportunities which cannot recur.

The Art Library especially is cramped from want of room for storage of books. The Circulation Department, now so rapidly growing, is much hindered from want of room.

A memorial presented to the Prime Minister has been submitted to your Committee, which bears the signature of the President of the Royal Academy and others practising branches of Art as a profession, wherein, after stating their views as to the extent to which the South Kensington Museum has stimulated and educated opinion in Art matters, and the profound impression which it has had on the progress and revival of the Industrial Arts, they pray that active steps be taken to complete the building.

## IV.—STAFF AT THE MUSEUMS.

## (1.) OFFICERS WHO CONSTITUTE THE STAFF.

The Department of Science and Art being one of the establishments which, by the Order in Council of 25th March 1856, were to constitute the Education Department, the Parliamentary responsibility for the administration of these Museums rests with the Lord President and the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education. The Museums and the Department generally are administered by a staff of which the Secretary, Sir J. F. D. Donnelly, K.C.B., who is the Accounting Officer of the Department, is the permanent Head. Communications with the Heads of the Department are conducted by him. The permanent staff of the Department besides the usual Secretarial Branch has two divisions, which are partly administrative and partly technical—the Science Division, of which the Director is Captain W. de W. Abney, C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S.; and the Art Division, of which Mr. T. Armstrong, C.B., is the



the Director. These officers, among their other duties, advise the Lords of the Committee of Council in matters connected with the Museums, and their immediate bearing upon those educational functions of the Department of Science and Art which are carried out through the Royal College of Science and the Royal College of Art, South Kensington; at which institutions the most accomplished and advanced students from Provincial Schools of Science and Art, hold Studentships, Scholarships, and Exhibitions, which they have gained in Competitions conducted by the Department of Science and Art, and the technical institutions, committees of county councils, and local organizations for promoting Science and Art instruction in the United Kingdom.

#### SOUTH KENSINGTON AND BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUMS.

Donnelly,  
App. A & A.

The special staff for the administration of these Museums is :—

##### *Science Museum :*

- The Director (Major-General Festing, F.R.S.).
- 1 Keeper and 1 Junior Assistant for the Applied Science Collection.
- 1 Keeper and 2 Assistant Keepers for the Collections of Scientific Apparatus and Circulation.
- 1 Junior Assistant for the Science Library.

##### *Art Museum :*

- The Director (Mr. C. Purdon Clarke, C.I.E.).
- An Assistant Director (Mr. Skinner).
- 1 Keeper and 1 Junior Assistant for Textiles.
- 1 Assistant Keeper and 1 Junior Assistant for the Furniture.
- 1 Junior Assistant for the Metal work.
- 1 Assistant Keeper for the Pottery.
- An Assistant Director for Sculpture, Ivories, and reproductions in Plaster.
- 1 Keeper, 2 Assistant Keepers, and 2 Junior Assistants for the Art Library.
- 1 Keeper and 1 Assistant Keeper for the Circulation Department.
- 1 Keeper for editorial work.
- 1 Keeper in charge of Indian Section.

Among these Keepers one is in charge of Museum Publications, Dyce and Forster Libraries.

##### *Bethnal Green :*

- 1 Assistant Keeper (resident officer).
- 1 Junior Assistant.

##### Summary :—

- 2 Directors.
- 1 Assistant Director.
- 7 Keepers.
- 8 Assistant Keepers.
- 8 Junior Assistants.

The following addition to the staff at South Kensington above described has been sanctioned by the Treasury on the application of the Department ; one assistant keeper who will act for the Textile Division ; one junior assistant who will act for the Ceramic Section ; one assistant keeper who will act for machinery and textiles ; one junior assistant for the same.

All official correspondence of the Museum is carried on through the general staff of the Department ; but there are three Second Division Clerks specially employed in the Museum Director's office for miscellaneous work.

The Directors of the Science and Art Museums respectively are required to consult the Directors for Science or for Art, as the case may be, with regard to all purchases, and the opinions of the Directors for Art and Science are recorded, whenever this is practicable, on all proposals for purchase which require the sanction of the heads of the Department.



## SUBORDINATE STAFF.

The hourly paid staff consists of eight special and technical assistants, temporary clerical assistants, attendants, and messengers. There are 61 attendants and seven messengers specially attached to the Museum, and 13 attendants and 34 messengers attached to the Department offices and the Royal Colleges of Science and of Art. But in times of pressure some of these are lent from one branch to the other. Donnelly 738

The police at these museums, who are under the control of the superintendent of the local division of police, keep order therein, protect the property, and patrol the museums. App. 5, 6,  
pp. 484-6.

They consist of—

- (1.) For the main building of the South Kensington Museum :—
  - 1 Inspector.
  - 3 Sergeants.
  - 37 Constables.
- (2.) For the South Kensington Museum, Western, Southern, and Indian Galleries :—
  - 1 Sergeant.
  - 24 Constables.
- (3.) For the Bethnal Green Branch Museum :—
  - 3 Sergeants.
  - 7 Constables.

## (2.) APPOINTMENT OF STAFF.

The Secretary for the Science and Art Department, the Director for Science, and the Director for Art, and also the Director for the Science Museum and the Director for the Art Museum, are appointed by the Lord President ; the four latter under the 4th Section of the Superannuation Act, 1859. Donnelly, 66, &c.

To the other higher offices also, including those of Assistant Keeper and Museum Keeper, the appointments are made by the Lord President, and ordinarily by promotion from those who have entered the Museum as junior assistants. These junior assistants are selected by open competition, the examination being conducted by the Civil Service Commissioners, in accordance with a scheme which has been settled between them and the Lord President and approved by the Treasury. The decision as to the appointment rests in each case with the Commissioners. The age of a candidate is between 18 and 25. The Lord President has the power, if he thinks that there is nobody available in the Museum who is duly qualified for promotion to grades above that of junior assistant, to bring in some one from the outside, with the sanction of the Treasury ; but even in that case the Civil Service Commissioners must be satisfied, after evidence produced, that he is qualified for the post, and give their certificate accordingly. Three junior assistants have been brought in otherwise than by the open competition, viz., under Clause VII. of the Order in Council of June 1870. The circumstances of these appointments are stated in Appendix, No. 21 (A.) Donnelly, 53, &c.

There are members of the subordinate staff consisting of attendants, who are appointed by the Lord President on the recommendation of the Directors for the Science and Art Museums respectively. There is also a lower class, such as artizans and labourers, who are engaged by the Director of the Science Museum, who has charge of the Works Department, but are not entitled to a pension. Donnelly, 68.  
Festing, 2695.

## THE MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, JERMYN STREET.

## STAFF AND DUTIES.

The Director is Sir A. Geikie, who has the assistance of a Curator. There are also an Assistant Librarian and an Assistant Curator, together with attendants, &c. Geikie, 5446.  
5379.

## EDINBURGH SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM.

## STAFF AND DUTIES.

At the Edinburgh Museum there is a Director (General Sir R. Murdoch Smith, K.C.M.G.), a Curator, and a Keeper of the National History Department. There are under them assistants and other subordinates of the ordinary classes. Donnelly, 431.



## DUBLIN SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM.

## STAFF AND DUTIES.

Donnelly, 45.

There is a Director (Colonel Plunkett), who also acts as Secretary to the Royal College of Science in Dublin. There is a Keeper of the Natural History Department, a Keeper of the Art and Industrial Department, and a Keeper of the Collection of Irish Antiquities. There are also assistants and other subordinates.

## V.—COST OF SOUTH KENSINGTON AND BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUM

18. There are three sources of expenditure at the South Kensington Museum which must of necessity greatly increase the annual cost as compared with other Museums.

(1.) The nature of the buildings, which are scattered without any carefully-devised plan over a large space and are divided into separate structures, each with the necessary provision for security by police at the entrances and elsewhere, as also against fire.

(2.) The difficulty of effective supervision, and therefore the cost is larger than would be the case if there was one carefully-designed and well-arranged building.

(3.) The character of the work therein conducted.

(a.) *The Connection with the Schools at South Kensington.*

19. It is beyond the province of your Committee to enter upon questions relating to the Schools; but it is self-evident the use of objects by the Schools both of Science and of Art must increase the cost of administration both in the carriage of objects between the Schools and the Museum and in the necessary clerical work for the conduct of this business.

(b.) *The Circulation Department.*

20. In other Museums the objects forming the collection are generally kept in the same place, except so far as redistribution may be necessary from time to time. At South Kensington, on the other hand, all the objects are, in theory at any rate, available for circulation, and in fact one-quarter in value, far more than a quarter in number of the whole, is constantly in circulation, the time for which each loan is made varying from twelve weeks to a year, except in the case of deposit loans, which remain for a longer period. This system, which carries out "a fundamental principle" of the Museum, involves a large expenditure not only in the duplications of objects but also in management. The removal of objects from their cases, the careful packing, the safe deposit in suitable cases at their destination, and their restoration to their cases after strict examination, involve much cost. There is also expenditure in visits to the provinces and the services of the staff in consultation with and offering suggestions to those responsible for Local Museums and Schools—an assistance greatly valued by them. This expenditure must necessarily increase as the demands for loans grow. There have also been loan exhibitions of special branches of art which have been highly appreciated, but involved much outlay. It must be noted that the Circulation Department occupies space, the provision and maintenance of which must cause expenditure.

Kal., p. xivii.

Kal. p. xxiv.

There are also grants in aid of the purchase of objects for Museums in the country. This is a distinct duty, and ought not to be regarded as part of the cost of the Museum, and therefore is not included in the following abstract of the estimate

The



The amount for 1897-98 was £500.

*Estimate of Cost, 1897-8.*

*N.B.*—Inasmuch as under some of the heads in the Estimates the expenditure of the schools is included with that on the Museums, a precise statement of the cost of the Museums cannot be here given.

SOUTH KENSINGTON AND BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUMS.

*Class 1, Vote 6.*

		Page of Estimate.	£.	£.
M.	The Eastern and Western Exhibition Galleries, South Kensington, are held from the 1851 Exhibition Commissioners on a 50 years' lease, as from Christmas 1891, at an annual rent of - - - - -	25	3,662	
M.	The North (or Cross) Gallery, South Kensington, is held from the Imperial Institute on a 49 years' lease, as from Christmas 1892, at a yearly rent of - - - - -	25	864	
	Annual rent, South Kensington Museum -		4,526	
J 2	Works and alterations of a minor character (part of) - - - - -	24	200	
K.	Maintenance and Repairs, South Kensington -	"	2,500	
	" " Bethnal Green -	"	350	
	Total - - - - -	-	-	£7,576

*Class 4, Vote 2.*

E 1 to 3.	Salaries of Staff, including occasional Professional Assistance - - - - -	337	10,274	
F 1 to 4.	Purchases, Carriage, &c. - - - - -	"	14,360	
H 1.	Salaries of Stores Branch (part) - - - - -	347	816	
H 2.	Copying Museums, and portion taken under "Stores" - - - - -	"	817	
H 3.	Attendants (South Kensington, India, and Bethnal Green Museums) and part taken under "Stores" - - - - -	"	15,847	
H 4.	Police - - - - -	"	11,900	
H 5.	Furniture and Fitting up Objects (South Kensington, India, and Bethnal Green Museums) - - - - -	348	3,700	
H 6.	Artisans, Cleaners, &c. - - - - -	"	11,600	
H 7.	Heating and Lighting (South Kensington, India, and Bethnal Green Museums) -	"	5,335	
H 8.	Travelling Museums and Circulation - - - - -	"	800	
H 9.	Incidental Expenses (part) - - - - -	"	846	
	Total - - - - -	-	-	76,295
				<u>£83,871</u>

APPROXIMATE COST OF MAINTENANCE OF BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUM, 1897-98 (irrespective of Higher Staff, &c., Employed both at SOUTH KENSINGTON and BETHNAL GREEN).

Subhead.	<i>Class IV., 2.</i>	£.	£.
E. 1 Direction - - - - -	-	450	
H. 3 Attendants - - - - -	-	930	
H. 6 Artisans - - - - -	-	1,545	
H. 4 Police - - - - -	-	1,633	
H. 5 Furniture - - - - -	-	900	
H. 7 Heating and Lighting - - - - -	-	480	
H. 9 Petty Expenses - - - - -	-	50	
		<u>5,988</u>	
	<i>Class I., 6.</i>		
K. Maintenance and Repairs - - - - -	-	350	
			<u>6,338</u>



GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM.

						<i>Class 1, Vote 6.</i>	Page of Estimate.	£.	£
K.	Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	24	200	
M	Rent	-	-	-	-	-	"	853	

*Class 4, Vote 2.*

I. 1 to 6. Salaries and Wages, Police, Specimens, Furniture, Heating, Lighting, Cleaning, &c.	338	3,966	
Total	-	-	5,019

EDINBURGH MUSEUM.

*Class 1, Vote 6.*

J.	Works and Alterations of a minor Character								
	(part)	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	100
K.	Maintenance and Repairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	"	940
L.	Furniture (part)	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	75
M.	Rent (Feu Duty)	-	-	-	-	-	-	"	12
N.	Water	-	-	-	-	-	-	"	10
	Fuel and Light	-	-	-	-	-	-	"	1,200
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-		2,337

*Class 4, Vote 2.*

K. 1 to 8. Salaries and Wages, Police, Specimens, Furniture, Cleaning, &c.	-	-	-	-	338	12,870	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,207

## DUBLIN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

*Class 1, Vote 14.*

B.	National Library Lift	-	-	-	-	64	180
	Refreshment Rooms, &c.	-	-	-	-	"	800
	Lantern in Roof	-	-	-	-	"	300
C.	Maintenance and Supplies	-	-	-	-	67	1,338
D.	Furniture	-	-	-	-	"	375
E.	Rent	-	-	-	-	"	201
F.	Fuel, Light, Water, &c.	-	-	-	-	"	1,910
	Total	-	-	-	-		5,104

*Class 4, Vote 2.*

	Police (Class 3, Vote 19)	-	-	299	977
L. 1.	{ Salaries and Wages (part only)	-	-	338	7,569
L. 2 to 8.	{ Furniture, Uniforms, Salaries, and Wages	338-9			
	Professional Assistance, Purchases, &c.	-	„		9,494
					<hr/>
	Total	-	-	-	23,144



## FINANCE.

The accounts are kept according to the same regulations as those which govern the accounts of other departments of the Civil Service, and are subject to the same audit and control.

457 A.  
D. 43.

The forms of these accounts are settled by the Treasury under the Exchequer and Audit Act, 1866. Any irregularity would be commented on by the Comptroller and Auditor General, and pointed out to the Public Accounts Committee, who would deal with it. Sir John Donnelly states that the Public Accounts Committee have not made any adverse comment during his tenure of office.

D 252 A.

253

The reports of the Museums as to purchases and the like relate to the calendar year, not to the financial year, to the conclusion of which the estimates and appropriation accounts. This method is adopted by the Trustees of the British Museum and the National Gallery.

Until the year 1884 the accounts of the Bethnal Green Museum were kept separate from those of South Kensington. A change was then made, it being thought that the complication and trouble arising from two sets of accounts did not produce compensating advantages. There does not appear to be any reason why some items at least (*e.g.* heating and lighting) should not be kept separate. The initiative of any change in these details rests with the Treasury.

## VI.—REMARKS ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE SOUTH KENSINGTON AND BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUMS.

## PURCHASES.

## (1.) ART MUSEUM, INCLUDING LIBRARY.

The process now adopted when purchases are made may be briefly described as follows :

Objects are generally brought to the notice of the Director of the Museum (Mr. Purdon Clarke) by the Keeper (Mr. S. Skinner), in many cases with a minute from him. The Director then immediately writes a minute, if he finds that he understands the object and is quite certain about it, and consults the Director for Art, Mr. Armstrong. That Director then writes a minute agreeing or disagreeing with the minute of Mr. Purdon Clarke. This report then goes on to the Secretary, Sir J. Donnelly, who either submits it with his own recommendation to the President or Vice-President, or, if they think it necessary, gives instruction to obtain the opinion of experts on the Committee of advice of the Department, an opinion which is sometimes obtained independently by the Parliamentary Chiefs of the Department. The Museum Director may make purchases up to 20% with the sanction of the Director for Art, but that sanction is not rigidly insisted upon in cases where the exigencies of the case render it necessary to make the purchase without such consultation so as to prevent the loss of the object. As regards purchases at auctions the regulations are slightly modified. In those instances the Director or the Keeper usually goes down to the auction room, and his report is submitted to the Vice-President. Due precautions are taken to prevent competition with the British Museum and any other Department.

Purdon Clarke,  
2956.Donnelly, 85.  
Purdon Clarke,  
2,984.  
Donnelly,  
1012-13.  
100-106.Donnelly,  
125 A, and  
Appendix 5 A.Purdon Clarke  
2959.  
3624.

2964.

2957.

It is a rule of the office to keep a permanent record of all these transactions, and of the written reports.

There was formerly a salaried office, that of Art Referee and Inspector-General of Art, which was abolished in 1867 by a minute of the Committee of Council, dated 23rd December, and a body of referees substituted. They were to be selected from "the most competent persons, to be employed as occasion arises, the Department paying them a consulting fee when they are asked to advise." Some changes were effected by a subsequent minute of 9th May, 1882, which provides that "for the under-mentioned collections in South Kensington and Bethnal Green Museums there shall be a body of referees or advisers who can be consulted as to the purchases, elimination

Donnelly, 105.



elimination of objects, cataloguing, general arrangements, &c., either singly or in Committee, as occasion may require, provided that there is always a meeting of each Committee for general inspection of the collection, with regard to which it advises once every year. This will not preclude the employment and payment of a specialist from time to time to carry on a definite piece of work."

In 1882 the first nominations were made. In the year 1884 the list was revised, and the following were appointed :

Kal. xlviii.

Mr. G. F. Bodley, A.R.A.  
Mr. Boehm, R.A.  
Sir F. Burton.  
Mr. C. Butler.  
Mr. J. P. Heseltine.  
Sir A. H. Layard, G.C.B.  
Sir F. Leighton, P.R.A.

Mr. W. Maskell.  
Mr. W. Morris.  
Mr. A. Morrison, F.R.G.S.  
Mr. J. H. Pollen, M.A.  
Sir E. J. Poynter, P.R.A.  
Mr. Alma Tadema, R.A.

Subsequently the following were also appointed :

The Earl of Carlisle.  
Mr. G. Salting, F.S.A.  
Mr. Walter Crane.

Mr. F. Du Cane Godman, F.R.S.  
and F.S.A., and  
Mr. W. de Morgan.

The referees are now Mr. Bodley, A.R.A., Mr. C. Butler, the Earl of Carlisle, Mr. Walter Crane, Mr. F. Du Cane Godman, F.R.S., Mr. T. P. Heseltine, Mr. W. de Morgan, Mr. A. Morrison, Mr. J. H. Pollen, Sir E. J. Poynter, P.R.A., Mr. Salting, F.S.A., and Mr. Alma-Tadema, R.A.

There are also referees for the Indian Museum and various other sections. The referees were at one time much consulted, but after the appointment of Dr. Middleton their advice has been less sought. There have been, in fact, only 148 references to them between June, 1887, and June, 1897, inclusive, at a cost of 645*l.* 15*s.* There have been one or two meetings of the full Committee, but separate members have also been consulted on special occasions.

Donnelly,  
106, 107.  
Appendix 9,  
p. 494.

Donnelly, 76, &amp;c.

The cost of the purchases for the South Kensington Art Museum is met by an annual vote. The votes for the purchase of works of art were from 1885-6 to 1887 10,000*l.* In 1887-8 and the following year 7,000*l.* In 1888-9 to 1891-2 10,000*l.* In 1892-3 7,300*l.* From 1893-4 to 1895-6 10,000*l.*, and in the years 1896-7 and 1897-8 7,000*l.*

The amount of the vote unexpended at the end of the year was up to March 31, 1897, returned to the Treasury, but being now "a grant in aid" any balance unexpended may be spent in succeeding years subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor-General. The Director for Art is, however, not obliged to consult the Museum Director in the matter of purchasing pictures.

Armstrong,  
5237.

## (2.) SCIENCE MUSEUM, INCLUDING LIBRARY.

Festing, 2364.

Purchases are made by the Director of the Science Museum up to 20*l.*, and are conducted on the same principles and generally by similar methods in the Science Museum and in the Art Museum. There are Science referees to advise when necessary in cases of purchase.

## CIRCULATION.

### 1. ART MUSEUM (INCLUDING LIBRARY).

Kal. lxvii. and  
lxviii.Mem. p. 5.  
Appendix 5,  
A. P. 1.  
Directory, p. 64.

Objects are circulated to (1) Permanent Museums at Schools of Science and Art for a period of 12 months, at the end of which period new contributions may be sent; (2) to the same on what is known as "deposit loan," in which case the objects are permitted to remain for a longer period; (3) to Museums established under a Municipal or Local Authority; and (4) to Schools of Science and Art for exhibition, and also to classes not directly connected with the Department, but which are attended by students of Schools of Art for the purpose of technical study in the various arts and crafts. The objects circulated in the last-mentioned class are ordinarily not of the same character, and therefore are not secured against injury or loss



loss by the same precautions as is the practice in the case of loans to Museums. They include framed examples, such as textile fabrics, lace, original designs, book-bindings, drawings and photographs of iron work, wood-carving, and pottery, as also students' works in order to show the standard required at the examinations. Further particulars on these points are given below.

For the same purpose examples of oil paintings and water colours suitable for copying have been lent to the Schools for many years. Loans for the Schools are, however, not purchased from the circulation vote. All these loans are made on application by the localities. The officer directly in charge of the circulation is then sent down. He inspects the building and reports to the Director whether he thinks it a proper building. He also meets the Committee of the Local Museum and ascertains the class of objects which they desire, and, very often, what are the local requirements. A complete report is then sent in to the Director, and finally, if all prove satisfactory, receives the sanction of the heads of the Department. The authorities of the Museums or Schools of Art are free to visit the South Kensington Museum and confer with the Director or the Keeper as to the selection of objects. Discussions have arisen whether the objects should be confined to one class illustrating the trade of the district or should be more general in character. On this question there is often considerable difference of opinion in the locality. The ordinary custom is to extend the collection beyond objects relating to the local trade. Every effort is made to meet the local wishes. It is the duty of the officer in charge of the Circulation Department to make selections for each locality, and to submit them to the Director of the Art Museum for his approval.

Cundall, 5789.

Purdon Clarke,  
3027.  
Purdon Clarke,  
3128.

Donnelly, 382.

The circulation is conducted by sending the objects from South Kensington to the local Museums where they are unpacked by attendants of the South Kensington Museum, who place them in glass cases under key, the custody of which they retain, where they remain until returned to South Kensington for examination. The cost of transport is shared between the Department and the localities.

Donnelly, 132.

A limited number of books upon the subject of Art applied to Industry, &c. belonging to the Art Library are used for circulation among Schools of Art, and special application is to be made for other books. They are between 2,000 and 3,000 in number, and are kept in circulation, being collated in the Circulation Department, not in the Library. It may here be stated that the entire number of volumes in the Art Library exceeds 80,000, bought at a cost of 85,858*l*. There are also 240,000 original drawings, prints, engravings of ornaments, and photographs.

Cundall, 5848,  
&c.Kalendar,  
pp. xlviii., xlix.

In the 15 years between 1881 and 1895, both inclusive, 886 collections were sent out, most of them on loan to Provincial Museums. In the year 1896 33,960 objects were on loan to 55 Provincial Museums, 22 Temporary Exhibitions, 251 Schools of Art, 8 Art Classes, and 59 Science Schools. From a subsequent return it appears that at a later date 35,400 objects were in circulation, the number of Museums and of Art Schools receiving objects being 62 and 262 respectively.

Mem. App. A.,  
No. 5, p. 3.  
44th Rep., p. 305

The articles in circulation at any given time form a quarter of the whole collection.

Donnelly, 720.

The number of Museums, industrial, technical, and general, desiring loans increases, and must increase. Earl Spencer expresses his extreme regret that the purchase vote which must affect the whole business of the Museum, including circulation, had been curtailed. Mr. Purdon Clarke, who has the chief responsibility for the circulation, is of opinion that lack of money already considerably hampers the circulation. Mr. Cundall, the officer who was for eighteen years in charge of the circulation, says that up to the present time it has been possible to meet the demands out of the material available for circulation, but such will no longer be the case unless the collection is enlarged by expenditure in purchases.

Spencer, 5024.

Purdon Clarke,  
3992.

Cundall, 6003-9.

The resources of the Museum are being largely increased by means of reproduction. Mr. Purdon Clarke considers this an important way of extending the system of circulation to the smaller Schools. Even in the case of large local Museums these reproductions are of great value, and afford in some cases the only and in others much earlier opportunities of studying good examples than would otherwise be possible.

Purdon Clarke  
4173.

Much controversy has taken place, and probably will continue, as to the proportion of this collection which ought to remain on permanent exhibition in London.

From



From the first days, it may be remarked, even before the aid given to Local Schools, there was a Museum in London. "Lord Spencer, formerly Lord President, attaches immense importance to the circulation business of the Department. It prevents the work being centred in London alone. It gives the inhabitants in every part of the kingdom where there is a Local Museum the opportunity of seeing and studying the best specimens of art, and raises the standard of appreciation all over the country." The following statements from members of the staff may best explain the principles on which the circulation is now conducted. Mr. Purdon Clarke regards the Museum as essentially a circulating Museum for the advantage of the country at large. Sir J. Donnelly, Donnelly says that "the circulation has always been a fundamental part of the Museum. He does not know whether you could say that that or the exhibition in London was the more important. The Museum has two special functions." In principle every object is available for circulation. But there are some objects built into the wall, or of such size that they cannot be transported; others are of a delicate and unique character, so that it would be dangerous to send them to the provinces. The Local Museums have not pressed their claims in such cases, and no single dispute has arisen.

The South Kensington Museum is the central and principal Museum of its kind in the United Kingdom. Collectors and others come from all parts to examine a perfect series and do not expect to find it broken up by extensive loans. There may be a danger of their finding special objects to which their attention has been directed being in different parts of the country. There is, moreover, a larger body of students of various kinds to study the objects in London than in the provinces. Moreover, as indicated on page 5 of this Report, there is a constant succession of the most accomplished and advanced Art Students from the whole kingdom, who come to the Royal College of Art to pursue a course of instruction there, of which the study of branches of Art in the Museum is an essential part. The vast population of the Metropolis, the seat, be it remembered, of important manufactures, must be taken into consideration, as any given object is more within reach of the largest number in London than elsewhere.

A scheme of classification by complete series is at present, at least, impracticable. The material is not sufficient to meet the two-fold demand. Either the series at South Kensington must suffer in continuity and completeness or the Provincial Museums would be ill served. A larger grant continued during many years with that special view is an essential condition for the adoption of such a plan.

A question of much importance arises in reference to loan of objects to Schools with permission to handle them there. On the one hand it is urged that, to take one example, viz. porcelains and objects of that kind, they are useful to the student if there is the possibility of handling them and examining their surfaces, so as to use both the eye and the sense of touch. It is alleged that the value of examples of chinaware and porcelains depends on their age and can only be certified by being handled.

With regard to sending objects to museums, it is quite clear that the unique and priceless treasures at South Kensington should not be sent on circulation. This has not been done since the Soltikoff reliquary was sent to Birmingham many years ago. The selection of objects sent from South Kensington Museum should be made with the utmost care; local wishes should be consulted, the special industrial and artistic requirements of a district being met as far as possible. The views of manufacturers and the needs of the artizan class should be consulted; but at the same time it must be understood that the Keeper of the Circulation Department should exercise his judgment and discretion. He must not allow bad things to be sent even when the local authorities make an evil choice. The tendency of these local bodies in the smaller centres is to ask for a "little of everything," a collection which will be attractive, and "bring in the shillings and sixpences." In such cases the keeper of the circulation division should not hesitate to use his influence on behalf of a judicious selection of examples; they should be suited to the local needs, and the loan should embrace a proportion of exhibits of a kindred nature to those previously sent; a certain continuity is needed in the Circulation Department as much as sequence is needed in the Central Museum. The local curator is frequently too fully occupied to give proper attention to the circulation branch of his work. Such gentlemen would derive much advantage from a competent adviser at South Kensington.

We



We have no reason to doubt that, speaking generally, provincial museums and schools are satisfied with the Circulation Department. An appendix gives a series of extracts (some dating back to 1889) expressing satisfaction with loans made by South Kensington. These letters and resolutions from Nottingham, Chester, Hanley, and many other towns, were perfectly spontaneous. We would point out, with much respect, that local approbation does not necessarily connote the educational value of the exhibits, particularly in those towns where the curator is "only too thankful to take anything that is sent down." The Keeper of the Circulation Department should not consider popularity as the first objective of the loans.

Appendix,  
I., No. 7.Donnelly,  
I., 655, &c.

Wallis, II., 1268.

Wallis, II., 1349.

Immense progress has recently been achieved in this Department. A classified catalogue of the art books in this section is now being made. Steps are being taken to utilise the extensive series of magic lantern slides. These will be sent about the country for the assistance of lecturers, and if the admirable suggestions made by the Director can be carried into effect the whole service will be improved. This plan is to combine lectures with exhibits, special attention being devoted to casts and facsimiles which would be sent together with original objects. These reproductions are made with such skill that it is almost impossible to distinguish them from their originals; intrinsically valueless, they are of equal benefit to the student and craftsman. These casts can also be coloured and waxed in a manner to make them appear identical with the genuine article. A prejudice exists against copies, but a good facsimile of a first-class object is of greater value than a second-rate original. These casts will be chiefly serviceable for art schools. As to lectures, Colonel Plunkett has already organised a successful series in Dublin Museum; similar lectures and demonstrations seem to be highly appreciated in the Midlands. We need scarcely observe that nothing is more likely to stimulate interest than lectures illustrated by lantern slides or the objects themselves. Another improvement contemplated is that cheap illustrated catalogues should be issued with the more important loan collections. In Birmingham 27,000 copies of a penny catalogue, drawn up by the local authority, were sold in three months. A further reform has already been inaugurated in connection with art schools, namely, allowing them to have loans of artistic merit and value; hitherto they have only received examples of comparatively small worth. Elementary and lower secondary schools might advantageously receive on permanent loan the works performed by students for the third-rate certificate. Those training colleges for teachers where instruction in drawing is given might also receive small and not costly duplicates, electrotypes, &c. Polytechnics are also anxious to borrow from the Department.

Weale, I., 6898.

Appendix,  
I., No. 45.

Wallis, II., 1251.

Clarke, I., 3058.

Clarke, I., 3058.

Plunkett,  
I., 4774.  
Wallis, II., 1323.Appendix I.,  
No. 45.

Wallis, II., 1327.

Cundall, I., 6014.  
Blow, II., 2569.

Cundall, I., 6018.

Mr. Purdon Clarke has submitted a paper which was published with the Second Report, 1897, (Appendix 24) showing "the objects which could be recommended for use in Technical and Art Classes, and at the same time be of such a nature as to bear handling by the masters and students." His scheme includes wood carving, textile fabrics, pottery, metal work, repoussé work, and hammered iron work. Much use is, under this scheme, made of reproductions of gesso work and other work, and of photographs taken for the express purpose of illustration. Loans are thus made to Local Schools of objects which will bear handling. The rule that the public must be admitted where objects are lent is not always enforced as regards this class of objects in the case of loans to Art Schools. The Authorities are now sending on loan exhibits showing different stages and processes, *e.g.* of lace, leather work, cloisonné work, and other kinds of work.

Appendix 45,  
p. 586.

Skinner, 1826, A.

Meanwhile administrative reforms have been carried out. We now anticipate a large increase in applications for loans. The officials of the Department seem to think that they will soon find it difficult to meet the demands made upon them. It will probably be found necessary to make circulation as distinct as possible from the Museum, giving it a special vote in the Estimates, and an expert keeper not subject to removal from one section of the Museum to another, into whose charge all available duplicates should be given; and it is quite possible that it will be found advisable to appoint an inspector to lecture and supervise the provincial work. This development, though expensive, would be most remunerative and could be defrayed out of unnecessary sums voted for other Museum purposes. A more careful selection of exhibitions to which loans are sent would also tend to economy. During 1895 (Annual Report, Appendix D), thirteen towns received loans for less than a week. Peterborough, for instance, received 400 objects; the exhibition was only open for four days and was only visited by 713 persons. During the same year towns such as Rochdale, Swansea, Plymouth, Bristol, Burnley, and Newcastle received no loans so far as museums are concerned.

Clarke, I., 2973.  
Cundall, I., 6005.Donnelly,  
I., 1230.

Wallis, I., 1259.



Greater initiative should come from the Department; where municipalities seem apathetic the Department should point out the facilities for securing loans. Without forcing objects upon them it should be easy to persuade towns of great status and wealth to take their share in the useful work of circulation. Thus we look forward to an increase in the work and usefulness of the Museum. The press should be more widely used as a means of conveying information to the public; advertising, though specially provided for in the Estimates, is inadequately employed. Lectures, and a proper classification of the Museum, now a wilderness, owing chiefly to the character of the buildings, will also promote the best interests of the Department. Again, the Museum will be popularised by a proper system of cataloguing and labelling the objects. We have heard a good deal of evidence on this matter which we must treat in some detail.

Blow, II., 2534.

Clarke, I., 4094.

## 2. SCIENCE MUSEUM INCLUDING LIBRARY.

Circulation to a limited extent takes place at the Science Museum. Science objects are also used for instruction in the College of Science.

## CATALOGUES.

Donnelly,  
II., 451.

Weale, I., 6920.

Appendix,  
I., No. 41.Donnelly,  
II., 714.

Clarke, I., 4178.

Appendix, I., 41.

Weale, I., 6749.

Donnelly,  
I., 1316.

The tendency in the past has been to have expensive catalogues, such as Maskell, the Universal, &c. These may be valuable to students at home and abroad, but they are naturally of no use whatever to the man who wants a cheap handy reference book which will enable him to find the objects he is in search of. The existing practice is to publish "hand-books." These are often admirable little works but cannot, of course, be considered as Museum catalogues. They are published "with the sanction of the Department," but we learn that, like the South Kensington portfolios, they are a private venture, and do not belong to the Museum. So, too, the red sixpenny guide is private property, belonging to the heirs of an official actually employed by the Department. The Museum does not appear to have any catalogue or guide of its own, except a small fly-sheet issued last year, which is distributed gratis. We hold that the Department should have undivided control of these publications, and that these commercial undertakings should be withdrawn. At the same time we feel that until the objects in the Museum are accurately labelled, all energy should be concentrated upon this work, the primary requirement; general catalogues and hand-books could then be drawn up, and the Museum inventory should be made available for reference to *bonâ fide* students. Later on the Museum will be able to issue cheap catalogues of special sections, ironwork for instance, or enamels, based upon the valuable monographs already made in the Art Library. Uncompleted catalogues, such as that about book-bindings, on which considerable sums have already been spent, should be finished forthwith. The Piot Catalogue has been in manuscript for some years, and "being of a nature to make it worth while to print it as it stands," the work might be completed. The catalogue of engraved national portraits should be withdrawn pending careful revision. Special catalogues should be issued without delay. The catalogue of the furniture exhibition at Bethnal Green was not published for more than two months after the exhibition closed. When the Museum is properly organised into sections the officials will be expert enough to do their own cataloguing. This will be a great saving of money. The catalogue of National engraved portraits, made by an outsider, cost something between 620*l.* and 880*l.*—representing from 300 to 420 days' work. This sum would have secured the services of an extra assistant museum keeper for five or six years, and he would have done this particular catalogue in 18 months at the most.

## LABELS.

Valuable as good catalogues are we doubt whether they are so important as good descriptive labels placed beside every object. This system is excellent, but, of course, it is only valid within the Museum itself, and it should be supplemented by reference catalogues for those who wish to work away from the Museum. These labels should be drawn up with the utmost regard for accuracy. Many of those now attached to the objects are "very inaccurate." Each object should be labelled separately. It is useless to describe objects in the manner suggested by this label :—"One of 94 pieces of Gothic

Skinner,  
II., 1638.



"Gothic architectural design, chiefly of oak, consisting of panels, friezes, pilasters, &c., English, Flemish, &c., 15th and 16th centuries, average dimensions 20 inches by 12." While such collective labels are misleading, a short printed description giving a general sketch or history of the objects contained in a case may be very instructive. These explanatory documents are much appreciated at the Natural History Museum and at Birmingham. The labels should indicate which part of any object is not altogether genuine, thus following the practice of the authorities of the Louvre. In cases where objects have been bought for their beauty, the labels should be as precise and searching as if the object had been bought for its authenticity as well.

Cundall, I., 5917.

Wallis, II., 1249.

Skinner, II., 1643.

Armstrong, II., 65.

Armstrong, I., 5649 &amp;c.

## ESTIMATES.

"We are convinced that the system of presenting the Museum Estimates requires consideration. We understand that the Treasury is mainly responsible for the existing practice. In the first place there should be, when practicable, a clear distinction between the estimate for the museums and the estimate for the Department proper. Intimate though the connection between the two branches may be, their respective cost should undoubtedly be marked with greater precision. It is now quite impossible to separate the cost of the Museum from that of the Department. Until recently the Museum Vote was divided into a number of sub-heads, showing the various sums allotted to the different purchase branches of the museum, *e.g.*, library, pictures, reproductions, art museum, &c. The separate items are now omitted, a single sum covering all the purchase votes. The Committee approve of the system, and recognise the advantages resulting from the power to expend the grant for purchases upon either library, pictures, reproductions, art museum, or such other objects as may at the time be most desirable; but the Appropriation Account should clearly show the amounts which have been expended in the several departments. The allocation is vested in my Lords, and it is for them to determine how much or how little shall be assigned to the different branches of the Museum.

Donnelly, I., 880.

Feasting, I., 2304.

Donnelly, I., 893.

It is with regard to the H votes that the estimates are most confusing and most confused. These votes deal with the lower staff, the police, materials, heating, lighting, &c. In the first place, no statement is given as to the numbers employed: H<sup>3</sup>, for instance, has about 26,000*l.* for "attendants, messengers, repairers, labellers, printers, store assistants, cleaners, &c." No detail is given except that the 26,000*l.* is nominally sub-divided for the administration, South Kensington, the two colleges, stores, and Bethnal Green. We say nominally sub-divided because the fact that Bethnal Green has 985*l.* allotted to it does not necessarily mean that this sum, or anything approaching it, is spent there. So long as the Auditor and Controller General is satisfied that the aggregate of the items composing H<sup>3</sup> has not been exceeded, he does not inquire into the expenditure of the component items. That is to say, he does not know whether the 985*l.* voted for Bethnal Green has been spent there, since the Department is at liberty to transfer this sum to any other branch of H<sup>3</sup>, provided that the total of 26,000*l.* be not exceeded. This method applies to all the H votes, and they are all subject to the same criticism. Moreover these votes overlap; H<sup>6</sup> is for "artisans, cleaners, labourers, &c." This overlaps with H<sup>3</sup>, to which we have just alluded, and in so far as the wages under H<sup>6</sup> are for "heating, lighting, and precautions against fire," there is a further overlapping with H<sup>7</sup>, under which a sum of 9,655*l.* is provided for "heating, lighting and precautions against fire." Under H<sup>5</sup> 5,600*l.* is voted for "furniture, materials, &c., and fitting up objects for exhibition." The great bulk of this is for materials such as wood, locks, hinges, glass, &c., for the show cases; the expense of making them up is met by the artisan vote under H<sup>6</sup>. It appears to some members of the Committee and to one of our witnesses that the allocation of the component sums is not adhered to in the manner intended by Parliament and contemplated by the Treasury. During the last ten years Bethnal Green Museum has had 6,800*l.* voted for its "furniture, materials, &c., and fitting up objects for exhibition." An undetermined sum has also been voted for the carpenters employed in utilising this material. We are at a loss to explain this enormous sum in view of the smallness of Bethnal Green Museum and the absence of large or expensive cases in it. The Appropriation Account does not deal with the items composing H<sup>5</sup>, and we, therefore, suggest a stringent inquiry into the practice, especially in view of the fact that notwithstanding the liberal sums voted by Parliament, Bethnal Green has been obliged to borrow show cases from South Kensington. The items composing

Spring Rice, II., 2290, &amp;c.

Donnelly, II., 454, &amp;c.

Lobb, II., 2440.

Spring Rice, II., 2266.



Clarke.

the H votes appear to be a guide to Parliament when discussing the Estimates, but not being mandatory upon the Department (and as we conclude, being frequently disregarded), they are misleading, and to that extent mischevious. The H votes are nine in number; they are distinct entities and are only audited in bulk, no attention being paid to their constituent items. These votes amount in round figures to the following sums: 2,700*l.*, 11,000*l.*, 26,000*l.*, 11,900*l.*, 5,600*l.*, 15,800*l.*, 9,600*l.*, 6,600*l.*, 3,900*l.*; we have already pointed out the lack of detail. On turning to the British Museum estimates, a service analogous in many ways to South Kensington, we find everything stated with precision and clearness. There is no reduplication of votes; they are concentrated, not scattered over a number of sub-heads, and the various services are kept distinct. But their most valuable feature is the fact that the Estimate shows at a glance the number of the higher and lower staff, and the salary or wages paid to every individual employed. The Secretary of the Science and Art Department is satisfied with the existing practice, though we gathered that the Treasury is prepared to give our suggestions a careful consideration. We do not ask that South Kensington finance should be subjected to vexatious and excessive detail. The British Museum plan is quite adequate to ensure accurate and specific information for Parliament. If possible, it would be well to make the annual report of the Department correspond more closely with the Estimates; that is to say, that the sums voted in the Estimates should be accounted for specifically in the annual report, although there is a necessary divergence between them in point of date, one extending over the calendar the other over the financial year. We may illustrate our meaning by giving an example: Between 1st January 1892 and 31st December 1896, five years, the Department spent 8,256*l.* upon "water colour and other drawings, &c." (*see* tabular appendix in the annual reports). During the five years between 31st March 1892 and 31st March 1897, 4,600*l.* was voted in the Estimates for "historical collection of oil and water colours." It will be observed that the periods are not exactly the same, there being three months difference; but this cannot account for the variance between 4,600*l.* voted and 8,256*l.* spent. The explanation given is scarcely adequate, unless the word "&c." appended to "water colours and other drawings" be considered a sufficient explanation for an expenditure exceeding receipts by nearly 50 per cent., a separate vote being already taken for reproduction (F. 3 in old estimates). We lay great stress upon the urgent need for reforming the manner in which estimates are presented to Parliament and audited by the Controller General.

Donnelly, II.,  
208.Spring Rice,  
II., 2276.Donnelly, II.,  
469.

#### ART SIDE.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Clarke, I., 2984.  
Clarke, I., 3884.  
Clarke, I., 3729,  
4020.

Many of the reforms we advocate are rendered necessary by faulty and defective organisation, though we readily admit that improvements have been made since the appointment of this Committee. There is an absence of definite rules which are imperative for the proper conduct of a museum; on the other hand there are regulations which have been allowed to fall into desuetude, while others which remain hamper the discretion of responsible officers. Rules should be either strictly enforced or frankly rescinded; in no case should they be "left in abeyance."

As to the position of higher officials, about which we have had much evidence, we consider that,—

Q. 6467, Civil  
Service inquiry,  
1875.

The secretary should be merely accounting and corresponding officer. As Mr. Norman Macleod (assistant secretary of the Department) stated, "the high officers at South Kensington are not necessarily acquainted with science and art beyond having a general acquaintance with the subject." The secretary should have no control as regards the authenticity and artistic merit of objects offered to the museum. The responsibility of selecting and purchasing objects is a function which properly appertains under the authority of "My Lords" to the Director of the museum. My Lords having of course the advantage of inviting the opinion of the Director of Art and of such referees as they may desire to consult.

#### (1) THE DIRECTOR FOR ART.

The work of this official is divided between the museum and the art education of the country, the intimate relationship of which is of the highest importance. We however, consider it difficult for one official to combine the knowledge requisite for both



both these spheres of labour, and impossible for him to have enough time to occupy the dual position with success. At present no object of importance can be bought without the sanction of the Director for Art; the purchases made by Dublin, Bethnal Green, and Edinburgh are subject to his control, and occasionally he has gone abroad on purchasing missions, the province of the Director or Keeper of the Museum. Moreover, he has charge of the large collection of water colour drawings and is responsible for the annual grant for additions to this section. The Director for Art also buys drawings out of the Art Library Vote, although the keeper of that library may protest that their acquisition would be useless to the students. These purchasing functions should be confined to the museum director after consultation with the keepers, who possess the expert knowledge so necessary in view of the skilful forgery and sophistication of Art objects. The primary function of the Director for Art should be the supervision of the Art schools and classes. These are increasing annually, and if they are to be effectively guided by the Director for Art, it will be necessary to relieve this official of some of his extensive functions in connection with the four museums. This official should continue to devote his whole time to the civil service and his administrative work. The Director for Science never interferes in purchasing for the science museum. His work is exclusively educational, and in the main the position of the Director for Art should be analogous.

Appendix II.,  
No. 5.  
Smith 3322.

Festing, I., 2375.

## (2) THE DIRECTOR OF THE ART MUSEUM.

We have already indicated that this official should be the purchasing authority, not subject to control other than that of a financial and administrative character. He should be an expert in one or more classes of art. Subordinate officers should also be trained as experts. This director, subject to the authority of My Lords, should have sole responsibility for purchase, having consulted the keeper of the section to which the proposed acquisition would belong.

Armstrong,  
I., 5697.

## (3) ART MUSEUM.

Having dealt with administration in general, we propose to touch upon the all-important question of the Art Museum. We have already expressed our opinion that the keepers, assistant keepers, and juniors should remain in single sections of the Museum, and not be transferred from branch to branch. This has been largely accomplished, and one man will no longer have to "attend to everything." This will produce continuity and expert knowledge. It will also make the employment of referees and extraneous experts unnecessary. The new system of sub-dividing the Museum, the first outcome of which will be the training of official experts, will supersede the need of employing referees to advise on some of the most critical work of the Department. However, it has been found possible to dispense largely with the service of these gentlemen; they have only met collectively once during the last five years. These gentlemen are paid for their advice. For the last occasion on which seven members of the Board met, in 1897, they received four guineas apiece. As there are about a dozen of these gentlemen their fees for a single attendance would add materially to the cost of the objects upon which they would have to adjudicate. We do not think it right that these gentlemen, many of whom occupy high positions, should be paid for services which elsewhere are rendered gratuitously; moreover, the gentlemen who act upon the analogous Committee which deals with the Science Museum are unpaid. We therefore think that the Art referees should not be continued. In any case the whole Committee should not be summoned at once, for those gentlemen who are on the Committee for their knowledge of textiles or furniture are not necessarily capable of estimating the value of ceramics or metal work. No official of the Science and Art Department, whether permanent or occasional, should be employed as a referee.

Clarke, I., 3563

Carlisle, I., 8008.  
Appendix, I.,  
No. 9.

Clarke, I., 3633.

Judd, II., 984.

Clarke, I., 3632.

We pass to the objects for which excessive prices have been paid. The Committee has been informed that the Oviform Vase bought at the Hamilton Sale for the sum of 71*l.* 8*s.* was not only an excessive price, but that the object was superfluous, as the Museum already possessed two identical vases for which 7*l.* and 2*l.* 10*s.* had been paid respectively. Another case is that of the Silver Clock which was "bought in" at an auction for 345*l.*, and for which the Museum paid 1,200*l.* a year later. It is

Robinson,  
I., 7554.

Clarke,  
I., 3634, &c.

true



true that this happened in 1869. But since that time the system has continued under which similar blunders were committed: caused by the absence of experts in the Museum, and the consequent dependence upon extraneous advice. In this case Sir Digby Wyatt, the eminent architect, was called in as an expert. Here again we recur to the sub-division of the Museum as the best and only guarantee against errors of this description.

There are many undesirable objects to which we must call attention. The bulk of these have found their way to Bethnal Green. There is a huge pottery wine cooler, a white vase seven feet high, "hideous black Venetian figures" which might be removed "without any very great loss to the neighbourhood." The large model of the vineyard is worthless, especially in East London. The forged terra-cotta has already been referred to; and we understand that the Department no longer pays large prices for indifferent reproductions (not casts but reduced versions) of art objects. All these things are well exhibited at Bethnal Green. We cannot understand why valuable space is wasted upon these things while South Kensington itself is so congested; these objects are considered to have no teaching value, while from the art point of view they are too bad to be sent on circulation. We think that notwithstanding the pecuniary loss, it would be well to destroy a selection of these cumbrous objects; such a course has already been taken by the Museum. At any rate they should not be preserved and described as at present, in such a manner as to convey the impression that they are of technical or artistic value.

We now wish to offer some criticism upon the class of objects in the Museum. The Museum is, of course, crowded with objects of incalculable beauty and value; their value would be enormously enhanced by a judicious elimination of the worthless things. There are some acknowledged forgeries in the Museum; other objects have been bought on inaccurate information—

(a.) Cardinal Wolsey's chair, bought at the Hamilton Palace sale. This is now admitted to be Cingalese work of the 18th century, and has been so labelled.

(b.) A Vernis-Martin cabinet; its panels are genuine, but as the cabinet was made up by an artisan who has since been placed on the staff of the Museum, the sum of 816*l.* paid for it must be considered excessive.

(c.) A number of forged Della Robbia pieces. These have been sent to Bethnal Green, and are now labelled "imitations."

(d.) The Molinari gateway. 600*l.* was paid in 1882 for this large stone gateway, which had shortly before been offered to the Department and refused on Report. Sir Charles Robinson considers that three quarters of it are spurious, and he read to the Committee a statement to that effect written by one Pietro Faitini, the man who alleges that he "made up" the gateway. Mr. Armstrong strongly demurs to this view, and holds that it is a fine and harmonious composition, that it is not inferior in style and workmanship to any specimen, even fragments of renaissance carved ornament in the South Kensington Museum, although he considers the medallions "bad": he is prepared to mark those parts which are notoriously spurious: we consider the proposal a wise one

(e.) Dr. Middleton drew up a list of 50 objects which had been removed. They are either forgeries, "quasi forgeries," or worthless things. These were acquired between 1853 and 1893, and have now been suppressed. It is fair to add that only eight out of the 50 objects have been bought since 1881.

(f.) It has been stated that the Agate Cup, bought at the Hamilton Palace Sale for 535*l.*, is a modern "make up," and not worth more than 50*l.* It would be well to test the value of this object by consulting some acknowledged authority.

On the question of who were the persons responsible for recommending the purchase of objects proved or alleged to be spurious, we prefer to express no opinion; and we decline to enter into the discussion of circumstances which many years ago attended the purchase, or negotiations for purchase, of certain objects, concerning which much conflicting evidence was brought before us.

On the second day of the enquiry last year evidence was given to the Committee about a controversy which took place 15 years ago; this related to the purchase of "the Hillingford collection of armour." The evidence proved subsequently to have no bearing whatever upon the system of purchase, and much time has been wasted upon the subject.

The



The control of the collection of pictures is unsatisfactory. The Director for Science has charge of one series, which is in the Science Museum. The Director of the Art Museum has exclusive control of the frescoes and mosaics. The Director for Art has control of the remainder. We have already noted the absence of proper regulations about the custody of the Raphael Cartoons; and we may add that although the gallery in which they are shown was expressly remodelled for them, owing to some strange oversight the doors are too small to permit the removal of the cartoons until they have been unframed and rolled up. At the National Gallery large pictures are moved through trap-doors in the floor, and at Hampton Court the Mantegna Cartoons are mounted upon wheels and can be quickly rolled out of the building in case of fire. The responsibility for the paintings at South Kensington should be specified, and dual responsibility should be discontinued. This is especially needed in the matter of the famous cartoons which have been graciously lent to the Museum by Her Majesty. As to the need for the blue and yellow glass which has replaced the ordinary plain glass in the roof, matters of scientific debate are involved. The object of this costly arrangement, which lowers the tone of the colours and appears to fill the gallery with fog, is to intercept destructive rays of light; opinion however is divided, some persons arguing that while the system may protect certain colours it is harmful to others. Mr. Armstrong would very much prefer a white light. We do not recommend that this class of roof should be extended.

Armstrong,  
I., 5597, 5280.Armstrong,  
I., 5585.

Cf. Form, 1236.

Armstrong,  
I., 5255.

#### (4.) ART LIBRARY.

We have reserved criticism of the Art Library because we have received a mass of evidence on the subject, and we think that this section requires such careful organisation that it should be dealt with separately. In our opinion it is one of the most important branches so far as students and craftsmen are concerned. It has no specific grant in the Estimates: and the keeper of the library denied the statement that his views as to the financial needs of the library were consulted previous to drawing up the Estimate. The keeper of the library is not responsible for even the most insignificant purchases. Mr. Weale found the library in confusion on his appointment. He reduced it to order, reorganised the system of cataloguing, swept away old abuses, and he has overtaken much of the accumulated arrears. But the system of purchase, control, and staffing is organically unsound and much remains to be done. The urgent requirements of the library are (a) a separate staff, (b) a special entrance examination, (c) responsibility of the keeper.

Weale, I., 6102.

Donnelly, I., 892.

Weale, I., 6055.

Donnelly, I., 895.

Weale, I., 6895.

Appendix,  
I., No. 38.

A separate staff is necessary in order that the officials may not be transferred from section to section. Bibliography requires a strict training, and it is a mistake to suppose that the library will make progress in the future if it continues necessary to "do the best it can with all-round men." These officials do not merely catalogue acquisitions; they should possess an intimate acquaintance with their books in order to direct the researches of many thousand students who work in the library. Men should go to the library young, and with a view of staying there; it is quite useless to send a man into the library at the age of 32 or 33 unless he has had previous library training; the official has to be removed, or remains a burden to his colleagues, who have to correct his mistakes.

Maunde  
Thompson,  
I., 6242.

Weale, I., 6102.

Appendix,  
I., No. 38.

Weale, I., 7046.

Library vacancies should be advertised. Candidates who enter competitive examinations for South Kensington Museum ought to know that they may be sent into the library. One gentleman who wanted a post in the Museum was put into the library, of the existence of which he did not know; he dislikes library work, and is trying to get transferred to the Museum. Another gentleman was entitled, by having won the highest place in a competitive examination, to choose the section in which to serve. This privilege was taken away from him. He was sent to the library much against his wishes, and after fifteen months he succeeded in getting transferred to the Museum. One need scarcely point out that these officials, though excellent men, are not fit persons to be on the library staff.

Weale, I., 6133.

Weale, I., 6120.

Weale, I., 6125.

If a separate staff be conceded, a special examination should be allowed as well. The librarian at Jermyn Street is specially examined already. We do not mean to suggest that all the examination papers should differ from those of candidates for the Museum, but that one or more special subjects should be substituted for those which are at present unnecessary for Art Library work. This is the British Museum plan

Donnelly, I., 63.



Weale, I., 6116. plan; the subject can, of course, be varied according to the needs of the library.  
 Weale, I., 7788. Thus, at present, there is no junior who knows anything of German, a language of  
 Weale, I., 6153. the first importance in an art library. As long ago as 1892 the keeper suggested that  
 candidates should be acquainted with the library rules.

Weale, I., 7075. The system of cataloguing which has been introduced by Mr. Weale is  
 Weale, I., 6917. approved by the highest authorities on bibliography, and his useful system of posting  
 up a printed list of weekly acquisitions is being adopted elsewhere; these lists are  
 much appreciated by the readers, and they ensure the prompt entry of all accessions.  
 Weale, I., 6920. Classified catalogues of books on particular subjects have been printed, and further  
 volumes are in contemplation. A code of cataloguing rules has also been made, and  
 Thompson, I., 6466. is strictly enforced. Sir E. Maunde Thompson's view is, that the library of the  
 British Museum could never get on without such rules. South Kensington, how-  
 ever, has dispensed with them for forty years, that is, until seven years ago. Mr.  
 Weale, 6995, 7919. Soden Smith during his later years suffered from ill-health, and was away from the  
 Museum for months together. His subordinates had no rules to guide them, they  
 Donnelly, I., 8358. were liable to be shifted from section to section, and the catalogue shows a strange  
 lack of knowledge. H. C. Reneue is given in the catalogue as an author's name: it  
 Weale, I., 7010. is really a misprint for the French work meaning "revised." Deel is also given as an  
 author, the word being the Dutch for "volume." The title of a book on the Marian  
 Weale, I., 7094. Annals, "Mariani Fasti," is transformed into an author's name; Fasti being made the  
 Weale, 7095. surname, and Mariani the Christian name. Another habitual error seems to have  
 Weale, I., 7102. arisen from confusion between the writer's name and the name of his town or  
 birthplace, which was frequently appended to the name in the 15th and 16th  
 Weale, I., 7010, 6792. centuries. There are many other errors of this description. Corrections are  
 Weale, I., 6102. being made wherever these entries are discovered, but the current work of the  
 library is too great to permit any systematic search for these vagaries. Another  
 result of bad cataloguing, that is to say, working without clearly defined rules, has  
 Weale, I., 6667. been that the library has bought many duplicates. The keeper stated that he could  
 give several hundred instances. There are over 22 copies of various editions of  
 Alciatus' book on Emblems, an utterly excessive number, even considering that books  
 are sent on circulation. The Hokusai case is even more remarkable: this is a  
 Weale, I., 7907. collection of sketches published in 14 volumes. The first is complete, with an extra  
 volume 5; the second set has 14 volumes, without extra cuts. The third  
 copy wants volumes 1, 8, and 12. The fourth set wants volumes 1, 8, 9,  
 11, 12, 13, and 14. The fifth set wants volumes 1, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and  
 14. The sixth set wants all but volumes 2, 5, 7, and 10. The seventh and  
 eighth sets only consists of volumes 2 and 5. The collection of prints is in a  
 Weale, I., 7911. similar condition. No proper inventory having been kept, there are enormous  
 Weale, I., 6094. amounts of duplicates and triplicates; five copies of the same print can often be  
 See App., I., 2044. found, together with a few spurious copies. Of some prints the library has as many  
 as 20 or 30 copies. The bad ones should be suppressed, and a number of the better  
 Weale, I., 6790. examples should be transferred to circulation, or given away to provincial schools.  
 Care must be taken in the future that the number of repetitions shall not be in-  
 creased. The purchasing should be in the hands of the keeper; no outside amateur  
 Weale, I., 7894. should act as broker for the Museum.

It may be necessary to make a separate department for prints and drawings.

Weale, I., 6926. A curious illustration of departmental laxity is shown in the practice of binding  
 up advertisements. The letterpress of various newspapers and journals taken in by  
 the Library was separated from the advertisements and bound up; but the advertise-  
 ments were also bound up separately in half morocco with gilt edges. When Mr.  
 Weale, I., 7946. Weale was made keeper he immediately put a stop to this waste, and withdrew the  
 subscription to newspapers such as "Puck." He sent 213 volumes of advertisement  
 pages of the "Garden," "The Queen," "The Builder," and other architectural  
 Saltmarsh, I., 8210. journals, to stores. Here they were destroyed. Nothing deposited in the library and  
 Saltmarsh, I., 8202. museum should be destroyed without express sanction of the Board.

Appendix, Vol. I., No. 44. There are a number of duplicate prints, these might be disposed of as gifts  
 to provincial museums and schools. The South Kensington authorities have recently  
 taken a wise step in transferring to other public institutions objects which do not  
 properly come within their own sphere. Thus the National Gallery has received  
 Carlisle I., 5298. several important Italian paintings by Perugino and the younger Bellini. They still  
 belong to the Science and Art Department, but nobody could question the propriety  
 of this transfer. So also the British Museum has taken over the custody of the collec-  
 tion

Clarke, I., 3659.



tion of coins formerly shown at South Kensington. We are aware that the interrelation of our public museums and galleries involves issues of controversy as well as of importance. Our reference does not permit us to enter upon a discussion of this subject. We may, however, be allowed to indicate that the question is well worthy of detailed consideration, by suggesting (a) the relations of Kew and Jermyn Street Museum respectively to the Natural History Museum; (b) of South Kensington to the British Museum; (c) of the three metropolitan picture galleries to the Chantry Bequest and South Kensington; (d) of the Public Record Office to the archive departments of various Government offices; (e) and lastly, the general relation of our national collections to those maintained by municipal bodies. The Art Library at South Kensington has a large collection of "National Portraits," engravings, prints, and so forth. Some of these would be more appropriate to the National Portrait Gallery, whither they should be transferred. It has been pointed out that there would be no objection to this transfer provided that those engravings which were suitable to an art library as illustrating costume, lace, armour, or styles of engraving, were retained at South Kensington. The others being of purely historical interest should be handed over to the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery.

Cf. Donnelly,  
I., 1210.

Weale, I., 6845.

We now pass to the position held by the keeper in his administrative capacity. He is not a responsible official; he is not responsible for purchases, which are subject to the constant interference of his superior officers. He is not responsible for cataloguing the books, prints, photographs, &c., of which he is the nominal keeper. He is not consulted about the financial needs of the library.

A collection of drawings of old London architecture was bought for 350*l*. The whole sum was charged to the Art Library vote. The keeper protested that the price was excessive, and pointed out that the drawings would be useless to his students, especially as they were nearly all reproduced in a book already bought for the library. The collection had previously been refused by the Guildhall Library and the British Museum, but the purchase was forced upon the keeper, and when he had signed the bill as correct the collection was hurried off, nominally into circulation, but really to Bethnal Green without the librarian's sanction or suggestion.

Armstrong,  
I., 5899A.

Weale, I., 6072.

There are about 100,000 photographs in the Art Library. They would be invaluable for reference were there a proper catalogue. The existing index is very defective. The library is suffering from previous neglect, for all the cataloguing should have been done as the photographs were added to the library. Three gentlemen (outsiders) were appointed to continue the catalogue. The keeper informed the director that they were incompetent, but they were, nevertheless, appointed, one of them receiving a fee of three guineas a day, a sum larger than the weekly salary of a junior assistant who could have done the work; this appointment was made in the face of an official protest, although we were informed that outside experts are employed on the recommendation of the keeper. We again point out that, for this kind of cataloguing, payment should be by the slip, not by the day. The work should be carried out under the supervision of the keeper who will have to revise the slips. In this case he was told not to interfere. The work went on until the vote for these gentlemen's salaries had been exceeded by 100*l*. (Hansard, July 30, 1898).

Weale, I.

Weale, I., 6691,  
7824.

Weale, I., 6715.

Weale, I., 6734.

Donnelly,  
I., 1341.

Donnelly,  
II., 472.

Weale, I., 6696.

Weale, I., 6702.

A great deal of evidence has been laid before us about the catalogue of "National Engraved Portraits," compiled by a cousin of the Secretary of the Department. The compiler was appointed in spite of protests from the keeper, who said that it would be a sheer waste of public money. The prediction has been verified. The catalogue has no index whatever. It is grossly inaccurate, and full of absurdities, so far as the biographical notes adapted (sometimes almost verbatim) from previous catalogues issued by South Kensington are concerned. Pugin, for instance, is said to have "cruised about the Channel, collecting archæological and natural curiosities." Hobson is said to have died "at the time of the plague" in 1630. Ballantyne became a friend of Sir Walter Scott in 1873, and in the same year Sir David Baird took the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch! Jackson, a publican pugilist, has eleven lines of biography, while Lord Beaconsfield, "Conservative Politician," has three. It is difficult to believe that the compiler was paid two guineas a day for correcting his proofs. In some cases the "national" prints represent personages of whom no particulars can be given simply because they were not of national moment—Mr. West, for instance, wax-chandler and oilman of Soho. Such prints are useless to an art library, and there is no need to spend large sums of money in describing them. The catalogue of the National Portrait Gallery, accurate, indexed, and scholarly, costs 6*d*. unbound. Nothing was paid for its compilation, the work being done by the keeper

Donnelly, I.,  
2077.

Weale, I., 6872.

Weale, I., 6834.

Weale, I., 6837.  
Appendix, I.,  
No. 37 and 38.



and his staff. But this catalogue (bound in cheap cloth), though not more bulky than the other, has 5s. 3d. as the price on its title page. This is erased at South Kensington, where a stamp is affixed worded, "reduced to 3s. 6d.," or "Price at the museum 3s. 6d." The publishers sell the book for 5s. 3d. and 3s. 11½d. These various prices are somewhat confusing.

It is not possible to say how much each slip in the catalogue cost. Compilation of titles for descriptive catalogues should cost from 1d. to 6d. per title, according to the character of the work. Miss Ffoulkes, an expert employed to make descriptive catalogues, was paid up to 4d. a slip. The slips in this catalogue of portraits must have cost considerably more. For cataloguing 1,071 foreign portraits 174l. was paid—about 3s. 2d. each—an abnormally high price, even if these slips are more accurate than those in the published volume.

As to the price of compilation, &c., it was officially stated in Parliament that the cost was "about 499l." (25 June 1896). This answer was not made without very careful enquiry. Mr. Weale, who had to certify the attendances of the compiler, said that the catalogue cost upwards of 880l. Further enquiry was then made at the request of the Committee. It then transpired that the original statement made by the department was entirely wrong; but attention having been drawn to the mistake it was still impossible to state the exact cost, which is alleged to be either 619l. or 675l. We observe that Mr. Weale nevertheless contended that the cost was 880l. But it is immaterial which estimate is accepted. In any case the cost was quite excessive, and the laxity in the financial department is reprehensible.

The Dyce and Forster Library is a valuable bequest of drawings, and books largely about dramatic matters; not an art library at all. They are somewhat out of place at South Kensington, but we do not of course suggest their removal. We think, however, that the cost of maintaining this library could be reduced without affecting the comfort of the readers. The popularity of the library is waning. There are not now more than two or three readers a day (see annual reports); no cataloguing has to be done except in the case of two periodicals which are taken in. Yet a keeper and two attendants are engaged in connection with the library, one of the attendants, having nothing to do in Dyce and Forster, works for the Art Library in the Dyce and Forster rooms. Until recently this collection was merged in the Art Library, and controlled by the Keeper of the Art Library. This arrangement was not inconvenient to the readers, and was an economy of money and time. But when an official was recently transferred from the Circulation Department he was made keeper, and was put in charge of Dyce and Forster. We recommend a return to the old system, which worked well.

To conclude our survey of the Art Library, we repeat our conviction that it is absolutely necessary to have the best available specialist for its keeper, that the keeper should be responsible for his department, and that his subordinates should be trained bibliographers, not liable to come into the library at a moment's notice from the Indian or Circulation Departments, and not liable to be sent from the Art Library to look after textiles or ceramics.

### SCIENCE MUSEUM.

We now pass to a consideration of the Science Museum. Our remarks on the administration of the art side apply to some extent to the science side; not nearly so much, because we notice with satisfaction that responsibility is more accurately defined, with the result that conflict between officials does not arise. Moreover the training of those employed on the science side has been more suitably arranged. The interchange of officials, which has had such disastrous effect in the Art and Indian Museums, is neither feasible nor necessary in the Science Museum, where the vote is smaller, and the separate branches of the work are fewer. Expert knowledge is of course required in the Science Museum, but since machinery is not forged like works of art, the purchase of scientific examples is not attended by the same risk as is the case in the Art Museum. We have already shown that the Director for Science (Captain Abney, R.E.) does not in practice, interfere with the purchasing duties of the Director of the Science Museum. This is the proper delimitation of work, as the Director for Science is fully occupied in forwarding the educational work of the country. We must, however, repeat that the Director of the Science Museum should be relieved of some duties now cast upon him. The appointment of a clerk of the works would bring about this alteration. At present there is nobody between the director and the labourers except the ordinary foreman. We need hardly say that much of General Festing's

Donnelly, I.,  
6817, &c.

Weale, I., 6810.  
Donnelly, I.,  
6829.

Donnelly, I.,  
1340.

Weale, I., 6732.  
Donnelly, II.,  
578.

Donnelly, II.,  
472.

Bailey, I., 7457.

Weale, I., 6748.

Appendix, I.,  
No. 41.

Donnelly,  
I., 1189.

Donnelly,  
I., 1171.

Appendix, I., 24.

Weale, I., 6103.

Festing,  
I., 2375.

Festing,  
I., 2275.

Estimates,  
IV. 2, F. 1.

See para.

Festing,  
I., 1694.

Cf. Festing,  
I. 2934.

Festing's



Festing's time is thus occupied in work which could well be done otherwise, leaving him free to devote his whole time to the museum.

It is somewhat difficult to criticise the Science Museum, which combines examples exhibited for their historical value, with those shown for their scientific or mechanical value. The earliest locomotive engines are of the utmost interest from a historical aspect, while the phonograph has an equal value from the point of view of modern science. But considering the rather crowded state of the museum, the growth of these collections will produce a difficulty about elimination. A great many things have already been weeded out, but the time will come (and in some cases has already come) when objects bought for their mechanical value will become so obsolete that they may be worth keeping as curiosities. No doubt the difficulty can be best overcome by carefully eliminating examples as soon as they are out of date. The museum should be primarily educational and discretion should be exercised to prevent an undue proportion of historical over effective exhibits. At the present moment the Science Museum is a compromise between the history and modern application of scientific enterprise. Its historic collection is by no means complete, while the section of working models contains a number of exhibits which are practically worthless for the artisan who wishes to see modern machinery. Electric lighting machinery is scarcely represented at all; likewise photography, phonography, and other modern scientific applications; the most recent working model is eight or nine years old, and others date back to 1860. These are of course superseded and therefore useless to the engineering student, though they may be of some slight interest to the historian. The director holds that a science museum should "have as its leading feature the illustration of great principles." In this we agree with him, and we think that this object will be most readily obtained by eliminating those examples which are obsolete from a mechanical aspect, and which, not having initiated any principle, are unlikely to prove of historical importance hereafter. Specimens coming under this category are numerous in every department of the Science Museum. We admit that the purchase grant is not large enough to secure examples of every improved engine or appliance; but it is adequate to buy models of all those which illustrate the leading principles of science. We wish to say nothing that will discourage gifts and loans to the museum; but at the same time we are bound to point out that care should be exercised to prevent the acceptance of loans which are obviously sent for purposes of advertisement. This danger was commented upon by a Committee which reported in 1886. We have had no evidence to shew that this danger has been a serious one; there being fewer examples in the South Kensington Museum to which this objection can be taken than in the Edinburgh Museum, or at Jermyn-street, where borax soap and Messrs. Truefitt's hair washes are gravely exhibited as "technological specimens."

The circulation of scientific objects is almost entirely confined to schools and institutes. It would seem that the circulation on the science side is not in so great a request as on the art side; but there is, nevertheless, room for considerable development of this work, more particularly among the smaller towns. In the great industrial centres the schools already possess an equipment often better than that of the Royal College of Science itself. To such places South Kensington can be of little service. To the other places attention should be given. In 1896 only 59 places received loans. (See Appendix in annual reports.)

We recommend that the museum of fish culture should be abolished. Previous recommendations to this effect have already been made. The secretary and the director both agree that it should be removed, and it has already been offered to two public bodies, being rejected by both. The fact is, that this collection is dangerous, owing to the large amount of alcohol in which the fish are stored; it is obsolete, not having been revised or increased for several years; and it does not carry out its obligations under the testamentary conditions of Professor Buckland's will. It occupies a good deal of space. Opinion being unanimous, we hope that this collection may disappear without delay.

We have sketched a plan of a board of visitors for the art museum, but a somewhat analogous body already exists in the science museum. These gentlemen are unpaid, and they advise on questions of purchase elimination, &c. This committee should be strengthened by the addition of several members, including the presidents for the time being of certain leading scientific societies. We also consider that their meetings should be held more regularly than has recently been the case, and that minutes of their proceedings should be regularly kept.



Donnelly,  
II., 176.  
Clarke, I., 3195,  
4252.

Donnelly,  
II., 187.

Appendix,  
I., No. 28.

Donnelly,  
I., 8433

It appears that on some occasions loans have been refused to South Kensington because they are only accepted at the exhibitor's risk. There used to be a small vote in the Estimates for hire of specimens, but it is now merged in the grant in aid. Were this vote somewhat increased money might be found for insurance, due care being, of course, taken that the insurance should not be made the vehicle for advertisement of the objects, and all correspondence on such questions as these should go through the secretarial department. The converse case, in which provincial museums receive loans from South Kensington, is not quite analogous, because these museums guarantee the safe return of objects. In those instances where the South Kensington officials break objects lent to their Museum, we are strongly of opinion that compensation should be paid. During the last few months a jade cup belonging to a Member of your honourable House has been broken; and a picture has been "ripped" through carelessness. We have had a return of 170 breakages of objects belonging to the Museum and circulation. This return is incomplete, as it does not record breakages anterior to 1863 in the Museum, or before 1877 in circulation; neither is any notice taken of the deplorable losses caused by the fire in 1885, which destroyed 175 large drawings and other objects.

The question of classification of objects is of great importance. At present there is practically none: Ceramics, for example, are to be found in half-a-dozen different places. Great difficulty has no doubt arisen from want of adequate space. We offer no opinion as to the three optional systems—classification by date, by country, and by material. When the new buildings approach completion the Department will have to decide which system shall be adopted.

#### THE APPOINTMENT AND INTERCHANGE OF OFFICIALS.

Donnelly,  
I., 1313.

Thompson,  
I., 6452.

Thompson,  
I., 6458.

Donnelly, I., 973.  
Donnelly, I., 975.  
Donnelly,  
I., 1041.  
Weale 7774.  
Cf. 1311, 6102.

Weale, I., 7069.

II., 1568.

Maunde Thomp-  
son 6633.

Your Committee has considered the expediency of assigning a special section of work to each official on entrance on his duties, so that he may become an expert, as is the practice at the British Museum. In earlier days, before the Museum assumed its present dimensions, this arrangement was difficult if not impossible. But other conditions now exist, and your Committee learn with great satisfaction that this plan is now being adopted at South Kensington. It is obvious that the museum has suffered from a lack of experts. It has been stated to the Committee that unless the South Kensington staff be trebled or quadrupled, it is not possible to have specialists. With this opinion we entirely disagree. Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, the head official of the British Museum, pointed out that expertise is not necessarily gained by having a large staff, but that it can be, and at the British Museum is, gained by a careful selection of young men for the subordinate posts, and having selected them, limiting their work to a single department of art or archæology. Thus in the coin and medal department, out of a total staff of five, two officials are experts of international repute, and the remainder are also considered experts. Similarly, in the large department of prints and drawings, the officials possess the highest expert knowledge. This is attributed by Sir Edward Maunde Thompson to the fact that young men are placed in a department and remain working there: they are not moved from one branch of work to another. At South Kensington the process of interchange is frequent. We are strongly of opinion that this is detrimental to the public service. Thus one junior assistant has served in Circulation, Art Library and India Museum—and, of course, has become an "all round man." Another passed from the accounts division into the India Museum, whence he was transferred to the Art Library. Facilities of transfer to other work in the Museum will doubtless be afforded in case the official prove, on trial, more adapted to duties elsewhere in the Museum. But it is almost impossible for the "all round man" to become an expert in archæology, bibliography, or art. We must, however, add that much has recently been done to bring about this desirable reform by sub-dividing the museum into sections, in which it is proposed to specialise as much as possible. This system should receive official sanction, and be made a permanent feature of museum administration. We may add that the keeper of the museum concurs in this proposal.

These considerations lead us to the question of the admission of new officials, their examination, and the probationary system. At the British Museum examinations are held in the ordinary manner, but the trustees can add one or more special subjects in which the candidates are required to qualify; this is in order to ensure the competence of the new officers for the particular sections in which they will ultimately work. The results have been satisfactory. At South Kensington no such system prevails.



prevails. The examination for a junior assistantship is identical for all candidates whether their work will be to look after Saracenic art, to catalogue books, to describe furniture and textiles, or to superintend circulation of objects to provincial museums and schools. It is not surprising that South Kensington should be obliged to rely frequently upon paid experts and referees to advise upon questions about which their own officials should be competent to give a skilled opinion. We observe that the principle of special examination is already conceded in one case, for the Jermyn Street Museum. This practice should be extended to South Kensington, the division of the museum into six sections having made its application possible. The system under which vacancies occurring very shortly after a Civil Service competitive examination are filled by the appointment of candidates who, though lower in the list, have attained the minimum, or more than the minimum of marks qualifying for appointment, seems to your Committee of doubtful expediency, as liable to arouse suspicion of the absolute fairness of the appointment. We would suggest :

(1) That no examination should be held unless there be a minimum number of candidates. this being the practice at the British Museum.

Donnelly, I., 62.

Weale, I., 6862.

Skinner, II., 1504.

Courthope, II., 2235.

(2) No member or paid official of the Science and Art Department should be employed as examiner. When asked whether such a condition had arisen, the First Civil Service Commissioner stated that the question was not one which it would be proper for him to answer.

Courthope, II., 2228.

Donnelly, I., 1077.

With regard to probationary reports made about officials after their first year's service, the Committee was informed by the secretary that a report on the qualifications of all new officials is regularly sent to the Civil Service Commissioners. Two Museum keepers never having made such reports, we enquired about the subject of Mr. Courthope. He told us that this regulation was abolished in 1871. We recommend that such reports be invariably made. It is immaterial whether the report be sent to My Lords or to the Civil Service Commissioners, but it should be always submitted to the person reported upon, who should have the right of appeal, and the continuance of the official after the probationary period should be conditional upon a satisfactory report being received, minuted by the keeper of the section in which the official works. At the British Museum one year was found insufficient and the probationary period is now two years.

Weale, I., 6862.  
Skinner, II., 1504.

Courthope, II., 2235.

Maunde Thompson I., 6440.

App. 16.

Questions have arisen as to the number of cases in which relationship exists at Bethnal Green and South Kensington between members of the Staff. It appears from a return presented to the Committee by the Department, that of the superior staff (*i.e.*, all above 2nd Division pay) there are seven such cases (of which three were the results of open competition) affecting 14 persons; of the subordinate staff, there are 49 cases, affecting 110 persons; and of the labouring staff there are 18 cases affecting 36 persons. The total staff at South Kensington is 774. The bulk of these are, of course, attendants, assistants, and members of the subordinate staff. It is most desirable that proper record should be kept of their appointment. The establishment list is printed in Appendix No. 17 (Vol. 1) where it will be seen that no record can be quoted of the appointments of a considerable number of men made in 1891, 1893, 1895, and even in 1896. Such laxity should be avoided in the future; it has no doubt contributed to the charges of nepotism brought against the Science and Art Department. We observe that 160 persons are inter-related out of the staff of 774 persons, that is, nearly 20 per cent. (or  $9\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. if taken in groups, a misleading form of calculation). General Festing remarks that when he finds that a candidate of respectable character for a post is a relation of one already employed at the Museum, he regards that circumstance as one entitling the applicant to favourable consideration.

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#### ATTENDANTS, POLICE, &C.

We think that the attendants employed in the Museum Galleries might, with advantage, wear a distinctive uniform, such as that worn by the attendants in the Dublin Museum. As regards police, their number may probably be reduced as soon as proper buildings are erected at South Kensington; but we cannot recommend any diminution of the force at present; in fact, it is doubtful whether the night patrol is adequate, especially in the western galleries. Owing to historical causes certain work of the Museum has been hitherto carried on by the Royal Engineers; the sappers have had the duty of protecting the Museum against outbreaks of fire, but there is no reason why the Metropolitan Fire Brigade should not have the full responsibility



Festing 2434.

Festing 2440.

Festing 2495.

responsibility here, as much as at the Home Office, the British Museum, or the Palace of Westminster. In fact it is a source of danger that the sappers should have nominal and primary charge of the buildings so far as fire precautions are concerned, since the fire brigade would be held responsible for dealing with any outbreak of a serious character. The argument for removing the barracks is strengthened by the decision of Her Majesty's Government that no residences shall be maintained within the Museum precincts. The sappers need not be in barracks until 11 p.m. They are allowed to bring in their friends; they have their own canteen and manage their own cooking arrangements; this does not conduce to immunity from the risk of fire; and as there is no communication between the Museum and the barracks (although the buildings are contiguous), it is quite possible that the force from the neighbouring fire station would, in the event of an outbreak, reach the western galleries more quickly than the Engineers. These sappers are now largely employed by the department as artisans. We are strongly of opinion that it is desirable to replace them by civilians. We do not offer any observations about the appointment of Royal Engineer officers for the higher posts in the Science and Art Department; such appointments are frequently made. At present the head officials of Dublin, South Kensington and Edinburgh are drawn from the Service.

Festing, J., 179,  
&c.

Maunde Thompson, I., 6302.

Clarke, I., 3617

Donnelly, I., 1162.

Having dealt with the subordinate staff, sappers, &c., we think it well to point out that the "Works Department" of South Kensington seems to be organised upon a faulty basis. General Festing, R.E., Director of the Science Museum, besides the important functions connected with that post, is in charge of the heating, lighting, cleaning, plumbing, stoking, carpentering, case making, glazing, &c., &c. Structural alterations and repairs are carried out by Her Majesty's Office of Works, by which upwards of 20,000*l.* is to be spent during 1898-99, though General Festing is occasionally obliged to employ bricklayers for repairing his furnaces and boilers. It appears to us that a clerk of the works should superintend these operations. There can be no doubt that a large part of General Festing's time is occupied with the control of these artisans and the direction of their labours. Without suggesting that this work is derogatory to the high position held by General Festing, we feel bound to say that the maintenance and development of the Science Museum requires the undivided attention of its director; and this director could be relieved of the heavy burden now placed upon him by appointing a skilled clerk of works at 3*l.* or 4*l.* a week. In the event of our suggestion proving unacceptable to the Treasury, we may point out that the alternative system, now in vogue at the British Museum, would be almost as effective. None of the cases, for instance, are made at that museum; an economy of space, supervision, and in all probability of cost. Before leaving this question we would add that the system of keeping monthly and weekly diaries, which has now "fallen into disuse," should be re-established. This would be of especial benefit in the works division of South Kensington and other branches in which there are a number of temporary workmen.

### THE BETHNAL GREEN OR BRANCH MUSEUM.

Some remarks must be made on the history of the Bethnal Green Museum. In the year 1866 it was proposed that the temporary building in which some of the collections at South Kensington were exhibited be divided into three parts and from branch museums in London. This proposal is one of much interest, having arisen from the first crude idea of institutions in different districts of London with an educational influence which has at length found expression in the great technical institutions of the metropolis. There was no response from Finsbury or Tower Hamlets; but a sum of 2,000*l.* was subscribed for the purchase of 4½ acres of land held on a charity trust in Bethnal Green for a recreation ground and as a site for a museum and fine art gallery, whereon one-third of the temporary building above-mentioned was to be erected. On this site the Bethnal Green Museum was placed, at a cost originally estimated at 5,000*l.* This museum which was opened in 1872 was admittedly established for the purpose of providing for the working population of the metropolis, especially of the whole eastern district, adequate means of technical instruction, the want of which had at that time begun to be seriously felt, and official promises were repeatedly made for the formation of a school of



of science and art and a library in connection with it. These promises have never been put into effect, and no arrangement having ever been made to provide any sort of technical instruction, the object of the inception of the museum has remained entirely unrealised, and justly caused grave discontent in the whole of the East End. It has in its present state been maintained at an annual cost of not less than 5,000*l.*, probably at a much greater outlay. The maintenance during the last 26 years has therefore cost the taxpayers not less than 132,000*l.*, probably much more. Parts of the modern collections housed there are considered to have no teaching value. This museum has gradually come to serve as a receptacle for second rate, and in some cases, worthless articles, and objects of vicious taste are exhibited there (*e.g.* the silver hansom cab), together with admitted forgeries (*e.g.* Della Robbia ware). Bethnal Green Museum occupies a central site in East London. The population is exclusively artisan in character, and we consider that under the circumstances Bethnal Green is entitled to exceptional treatment. We cannot say that the museum as it stands is of adequate use to the community. The Bishop of Stepney called it a "lost opportunity." Another witness says it is regarded as a "white elephant," suitable for nothing beyond a playground and resting place for children. Bethnal Green does not complain, because "in the East End we are thankful for small mercies, and our expressions of regret have been somewhat suppressed lest we should lose anything." Properly organised, this museum would become an effective agency for the improvement of technical instruction in the East End. It might be made into a municipal museum as suggested by the Government; if this be not done the Department must prevent the disappointment and waste resulting from the ill-equipped condition of the museum. There is a vacant space north of the present building. This site, or part of it, might be offered to the free library in Bethnal Green, which now occupies a very unsuitable position. The juxtaposition of museum and library would be of reciprocal advantage. A local advisory committee would prevent the repetition of errors which have been made, particularly with regard to the nature of exhibits. Proper lecture-rooms would be of great value, provided, of course, that the departmental staff were competent, and that the lectures, demonstrations, &c., were devoted to subjects in which the industrial classes of East London are interested. The Department has organised two exhibitions of furniture and leather work, the staple trades of the district; but these were isolated efforts, insufficiently advertised. The annual exhibitions held at Toynbee Hall show that the inhabitants of East London appreciate good exhibitions, especially when lectures are given about the exhibits. 70,000 visitors attend these exhibitions during the three weeks they are open, and Bethnal Green Museum might become a source of similar pleasure and instruction.

It may be questioned whether the difficulties connected with the museum can be removed except by resuming the negotiations with the Technical Instruction Committee of the London County Council and the transfer to that authority of the building and the Dixon Collection, and any other objects specially bequeathed to the Bethnal Green Museum. The remainder of the collection now in this branch museum at Bethnal Green would in that case be at the disposal of the Department for their general purposes in connection with museums.

### THE MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, JERMYN STREET.

We have already recommended the removal of the collections at Jermyn Street to South Kensington. This museum also contains objects which are only remotely connected with British Geology, such as wall papers from Pekin, Greek vases, Egyptian idols, Limoges enamels, Persian china, &c. Those objects which have any artistic merit should be transferred to the art department at South Kensington, for they are not appreciated at Jermyn Street, where the shelves are very crowded. Many specimens are not labelled, and are placed too high on the walls to be seen properly. Some of these art objects have already been lent to private exhibitions, *e.g.*, enamels to the Burlington Fine Arts Club. The chief art collection in the Geological Museum is a valuable collection of British pottery. The director of the Museum holds that the technological interest of this pottery is far greater than its artistic interest. The technological side of pottery can be illustrated by fragments as well as by complete specimens—better, indeed, for the fragments



fragments display the clay and component parts, while the complete specimen shows nothing but the surface and glaze. This collection should also be moved to the Central Museum, leaving some examples as specimens. Care should be taken to limit the scope of Jermyn Street. It is argued that everything in which mineral substances are used can be appropriately placed in the Museum. This means that every object at South Kensington, excluding purely vegetable products such as textiles and wood carving, together with ivories and certain paintings, would be appropriate to Jermyn Street. The British Geological Museum should exhibit British geological specimens. Ample accommodation for British pottery and foreign objects of art can be found elsewhere.

### EDINBURGH SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM.

It appears to us that the Edinburgh Museum suffers from the centralising tendency of South Kensington. We find that the director has no right to spend more than 20% without obtaining permission of the Director for Art in London; and it is the Director for Art who settles whether an object offered for purchase shall go before that Board or not. This is objectionable because the art expert, the Director of the Museum, is not consulted; while the teaching expert, the Director for Art, has the controlling voice in matters of purchase. The head of the Edinburgh Department should be allowed greater initiative; and it must be remembered that the cost of this restriction is considerable, as objects are constantly sent about in order to obtain approval of the Director for Art. Again the Edinburgh Museum ought to share the work of distributing loans among the Scottish Museums and art schools, but this is also exclusively managed from London. An urgent want for the Museums of Science and Art in Edinburgh is electric light instead of gas. This can now be cheaply and easily procured from the excellent public supply, provided by the Corporation.

As to the nature of objects shown in Edinburgh we think that a better class of exhibits should be sent from South Kensington; there are some admirable casts in the Edinburgh Museum, but the number of good originals is singularly small. There are no water-colour drawings or pictures. The collection at the London Museum is so overcrowded that a transfer would be of mutual advantage. On the other hand, the museum contains a number of articles which might be advantageously removed. The loan of the Gutta-Percha Company, London, is obviously an advertisement. Pen trays, photographs, frames, etc., likewise the exhibit of modern boots and shoes of a very inferior type. These should be removed, and the valuable examples of tiles, now in a dark place, should be substituted for them. The ethnographic photographs of naked Tasmanians should be placed in the library and be given out to students when required. The collection of living fish, frogs, etc., is unnecessary. There is no periodical stock taking; this should not be omitted. We see no reason why the public should have to pay for admission on three days in the week.

### DUBLIN SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM.

The Dublin Museum has the best buildings of any belonging to the Science and Art Department. The space, however, is very inadequate. The National Library will shortly have to be enlarged, and it is already proposed to secure land whereon to build the new college of science. Since the appointment of this Committee, steps have been taken to remedy the strange architectural error by which a gallery with no rooms above it was not provided with sky lighting. Three extra rooms are to be added for the proper display of the Celtic collection. Lecture rooms should also be added. There is no need for large sums to be spent on them, as they will not be required for large audiences, but they would add materially to the educational powers of the museum. We may add that the sum granted by the Treasury for the extension of the National Library is alleged to be insufficient, in respect of the department for issuing books and newspapers, &c.

The Director of the Dublin Museum occupies the same relation to the Department as does the Director at Edinburgh. The remarks we have already made on this subject apply equally to the Dublin Director, who should be allowed initiative and responsibility. The salary of the keeper of the Celtic antiquities should be raised; the late keeper having received only 257*l.* annually. This sum is not adequate remuneration for a first-class archaeologist who will give all his time to the work. The collection is of untold value, containing unique objects which cannot be matched in any



any other museum at home or abroad. Many of them are not fully described, while others have no descriptive labels whatever. This cataloguing should be pressed forward; meanwhile the old catalogues, made for the Royal Irish Academy, should be cut up and the labels be appended to the objects. The Natural History staff should be increased, and a technical assistant should be added to the Botanical staff. Your Committee have, at the request of the Lords of the Treasury, considered a communication, under the date of 19th February, 1897, from the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education, expressing the opinion that Professor Johnson, of the Dublin Museum of Science and Art, should be employed for 150 days instead of 70 days, and that his salary should be increased by 100% annually. The reason given for this change is the transfer of the collection of fossil plants from the Palæontological to the Botanical Department, and the consequent addition to the duties of the Professor. Your Committee are of opinion that these changes ought to be made. They recognise the necessity of developing economic botany in Ireland, and concur in the view of the visitors, that a well-equipped herbarium is a necessity. The existence of an herbarium at Kew, or elsewhere in Great Britain, is no reason why Dublin should not possess a collection to meet the requirements of Ireland, which is mainly an agricultural country; and your Committee strongly support the proposal that more of Professor Johnson's time, with an additional salary, be devoted to the care and management of collections which will render valuable assistance to the improvement of Irish agriculture.

We think that the Visitors should meet more regularly, keeping minutes of their proceedings. They should have more initiative, and their views upon elimination of unsuitable objects should be requested. We think they might consider the advisability of holding special exhibitions, the last of which was held in 1885. The subject of co-operation with other educational bodies is one upon which their advice would be valuable. A closer connection with the technical instruction classes now held in Dublin should be brought about; and so far as the country is concerned, the greatest care should be taken by the Department as well as by the advisory Board of Visitors already mentioned, to direct the development of technical art training into proper channels. Speaking generally, the art industries of Ireland are dormant; but there is no reason why carving in wood and stone, furniture, lace-making, and silver work should not regain the high standing of former years. The circulation of carefully selected specimens from South Kensington should be encouraged as much as possible. Other industries of a more commercial character, spinning and weaving, for instance, would also be benefited, if the craftsman could have good examples to study.

#### WALES.

We have heard evidence from Wales. Without making any definite recommendation we are of opinion that a good case has been made out for extending the advantages of Science and Art collections in the principality. It is, of course, largely a question of money, but in the event of the Bethnal Green Museum being removed from the control of the Department, we think that the moneys so saved might be devoted advantageously to museum purposes in Wales. A delicate point arises as to the town in which the museum should be placed, but a witness said that the problem could be solved if any tangible proposal to create a museum were put forward. Both witnesses, however, were strongly disposed to advocate the recognition of the University of Wales (which is a federation of the three University Colleges of Aberystwyth, Bangor, and Cardiff) as being the Educational Capital of Wales. The population of the Counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth is increasing rapidly, and the situation of the University College of South Wales at Cardiff would make its Museum fitted to supply the needs of South Wales. This matter would have to be settled by a Departmental Committee unbiassed in favour of any particular locality. Failing the establishment of such a museum, the circulation department should take precautions to prevent the continuance of what has undoubtedly been neglect of Wales in the immediate past.

#### BOARD MEETINGS.

A reform of the system of Board meetings is still more imperative. It used to be the custom to hold these meetings fortnightly or weekly. They were attended by either the Lord President or the Vice-President of the Council, and by six or seven of the high officials of the Department. Educational questions were predominant, and the Museum question was proportionately small. These Board meetings

Plunkett,  
I., 4462.Plunkett,  
I., 4463.  
Plunkett,  
I., 4786.

Graves, II., 2089

Plunkett,  
I., 4431.

Graves, II., 1890

Graves, II., 2079

Roberts,  
II., 2866.

Dobbie, II., 2935.

Dobbie, II., 2953.

Dobbie, 2953.  
Roberts, 2881.Spencer,  
I., 5002.Donnelly,  
I., 2004, &c.Donnelly,  
I., 2031.



Gorst, II., 726. meetings have been discontinued during the last three years. It is probably difficult for the Parliamentary chiefs of the Department to find time to attend Board meetings when occupied with important legislation; but we consider something of the kind to be none the less wanted.

#### BOARD OF VISITORS.

Appendix,  
I., No. 2.

Efforts have from time to time been made to give greater efficiency to and increasing public confidence in the administration of South Kensington. As long ago as 1873, the Government of the day contemplated the transference of the South Kensington collections to the custody of the British Museum. The Departmental Committee appointed to deal with the proposal, however, failed to agree, and no further action was taken. In 1893 the Government offered the Bethnal Green Museum to the London County Council, and we understand that the offer has never been withdrawn. In 1882 Lord Spencer appointed a Consultative Committee of gentlemen, hoping that they might overcome the prejudice which he said existed in the mind of the public. We are convinced that, in order to rehabilitate the prestige of South Kensington, a Board of Visitors should be appointed. At the Dublin Museum there is already such a Board, working in harmony with the director and helping to inspire confidence in Ireland. At the British Museum the unpaid board of trustees works very well. We do not recommend trustees for South Kensington, but visitors, the executive powers being vested in the Parliamentary heads of the Department.

Appendix,  
I., No. 25.

Lord Spencer,  
I., 5148.

Plunkett,  
I., 4344.

Graves, II., 2094

Maunde  
Thompson,  
I., 6509.

The constitution of the Board should be representative of the various public interests affected by South Kensington.

The functions of the Board would be advisory.

They would meet as required, arranging their own meetings and agenda.

Power should be given to the Board to appoint sub-committees.

Minutes of each committee and sub-committee should be regularly kept.

The Board might advise the Lord President upon questions connected with the arrangement, management, cataloguing, and classification of collections. Also with regard to loans, purchases, elimination, and exchange. The Board should inspect the Museum periodically.

We cannot recommend that they should appoint officials, although this privilege is accorded to the trustees of the Science and Art Department Library at Dublin. But we think they should be entitled to advise on appointments, promotion, and transfer of officials.

Donnelly,  
I., 47.

They should give special care to the development of circulation.

They should have the power to call in the director and keepers of the Museum for consultation.

They should make an annual report, to be embodied in that of the Department.

Appendix,  
I., No. 34.

Robinson,  
I., 7602.  
Armstrong,  
I., 4892.  
Plunkett,  
I., 4355.

All executive power must remain with the Department. The Visitors would have no control over the Royal College of Art. Many of the duties we have suggested were to have appertained to the committees of advice, which were directed to advise on "purchases, elimination of objects, cataloguing, general arrangements, etc." But these committees, with an aggregate of 80 members, not having been summoned for years, have been quite inoperative. Nothing else will restore confidence so effectively as the existence of a Board of Visitors.

#### DOCUMENTS, &c.

Donnelly,  
I., 8377.  
Donnelly,  
II., 150.  
Donnelly,  
I., 8114.  
Donnelly,  
II., 153.

As to the preservation of documents, correspondence, &c., the Committee finds that certain papers dealing with objects in the Museum or offered to the Museum have been destroyed or mislaid. Thus, it was impossible to produce the adverse report on the Molinari Gateway ultimately bought for South Kensington. All documents and reports dealing with works of art refused as well as purchased by the Museum should be preserved; while no documents except those of a purely formal character should be destroyed without reference to the Public Record Office.



## VII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The South Kensington Museum arose from small beginnings, and has grown, as so many of our institutions have grown, under the influence of external circumstances rather than by the guidance of a consistent policy determined beforehand.

The collection now at Kensington, including objects both of industrial and decorative art, was formed from purchases made by Parliamentary grants, from gifts by generous donors such as Mr. Sheepshanks, Mr. Jones, Messrs. Dyce and Foster, Mr. Ellis, Lady Charlotte Schreiber, Mr. Bolekow, and many others, and from loans such as those of Mr. Salting.

The important question of danger from fire has already been reported upon by this committee, and the Government has taken some steps to protect the museum. Fires have broken out in 1877, 1885, 1889, and 1897, possibly oftener, and although they have been "very trifling," it was necessary in one case to telegraph for all the engines that could be obtained. In one case in 1885 the fire burned for three hours, destroying 100 yards of the roof as well as a large number of exhibits. In 1893 an expert made a long report on the danger from fire; a cursory glance at this will demonstrate the extraordinary dangers by which the museum has been threatened for years. Some of the recommendations made in this report have been adopted. The recent action of Her Majesty's Office of Works has minimised other dangers, but the risks are still grave. It would be tedious to refer to the details which require attention; we will content ourselves with pointing out that the "standpipes and hose of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade are neither in screw nor diameter such as would fit the hydrants" in the grounds of South Kensington (p. 8 of report.) There is only one effective remedy, namely, that the entire responsibility should be handed over to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. This system works well at the British Museum and does not interfere with the discipline of the museum staff. Outbreaks have not been prevented by the present arrangement at South Kensington. In every way it is advisable to place control in the hands of trained and expert professionals, pending which we recommend a regular inspection and test of hose and appliances.

Festing,  
2925.  
Festing, I., 2120.  
Clarke, I., 3721.

Donnelly,  
I., 8437.  
App. I., No. 33.

Maunde  
Thompson,  
I. 6403, 6415.

The question of fire is closely related to the question of buildings. As the remaining temporary shedding is removed the danger will diminish. At present there is considerable danger from the position of the stores and from other causes.

An annual rental of 4,526*l.* is paid by the Science and Art Department for the buildings on the west side of Exhibition Road, including the annual rent of 864*l.* to the Imperial Institute in respect of the "Cross Gallery." We consider these sums quite excessive, as the buildings in question are of a most inferior character. One of them is the Refreshment Department of an exhibition held in the sixties. A large proportion of these buildings are not top-lighted.

App. I., No. 11.

We have already recommended the removal of the Jermyn Street museum to South Kensington, where ample room can be provided for it; at Jermyn Street no extension can be hoped for. The capitalised value of the rental would be sufficient to erect a fine building adapted to modern ideas of museum construction.

App., I., No. 11

The offices and secretarial department should be removed to Whitehall as soon as the new Government buildings are completed. We understand that provision has already been made for this purpose by the First Commissioner of Works, and we express our full concurrence with his decision. This would give additional space at South Kensington; further space would also be gained by removing the barracks and canteen; also by abolishing the museum of fish culture.

Your Committee would recommend a more prominent position for the main stall for the sale of catalogues and photographs at South Kensington, and in addition there might well be in each of the galleries devoted to a special class of exhibits a stall for the sale of catalogues relating to such exhibits under the direction of the existing gallery attendant, the larger provision of explanatory notices, of cheap handbooks and catalogues would materially enhance the educational value of the museum.

The collections would be more highly appreciated and rendered of greater value to the community if explanatory lectures were given. Such lectures have been delivered at Dublin and in Jermyn Street, and with encouraging results.



In forming a judgment as to purchases, it must be remembered that there have been great changes of taste during the 40 years which have elapsed since the Museum was founded. There has also been a great extension of information, and the true value has been given to many objects respecting which little was formerly known. Mistakes have doubtless been made; but they have been unimportant compared with the magnitude of the collections. After withdrawing from circulation objects of no value, there remains such an increase in the value of other objects purchased that the loss arising from those errors becomes of small account.

YOUR Committee desire to record their opinion that the termination of the engagement of Mr. Weale, late keeper of the Art Library, immediately after the rising of the House in 1897, and subsequent to the giving of evidence by Mr. Weale, in which errors and abuses of administration in the museum were freely exposed, very much resembles a breach of privilege and an infringement of the immunity usually enjoyed by witnesses before Committees of the House of Commons.

Your Committee have observed, with regret, indications of acute controversy between persons in official positions at or in connection with the Museum at South Kensington; this has been an injury to the public service, and has brought discredit on the administration. They sincerely hope that all members of the staff will henceforth cordially co-operate, and thus, working together, endeavour to promote in the most effective manner the usefulness of the Museum.

Your Committee have been confined by the order of reference to the Museums, but have found the relationship between the Schools and the Museums so intimate that they have been compelled to make some reference to the Schools in the course of their report.

Your Committee desire to place on record their great regret that Mr. Acland, M.P., formerly Vice-President of the Council on Education, should have been compelled by indisposition to retire from the Committee. His intimate knowledge of the London Museums, to which he devoted the most careful attention, and his experience in educational subjects, would have been of the greatest service to your Committee.

#### VIII.—RECOMMENDATIONS.

With a view to the efficient and economical management of the Museums in London, to say nothing of other educational advantages not within the order of reference, your Committee deem it of paramount importance that there be an Education Minister of Cabinet rank having a seat in the Legislature aided by a Parliamentary Secretary.

They recommend that the Secretary for the Science and Art Department, like the Secretary of the Education Department, have his office at Whitehall.

That there be advisers or visitors who would assist the Department by suggestions or information in matters affecting the Museums, but would not lessen the responsibility to Parliament of the Parliamentary Chiefs. Such a system exists in Dublin and works well. The Board of Admiralty and the Indian Council render valuable assistance to the Great Officers of State, but do not shelter them from responsibility.

That, with a view to facilitating communications between the Parliamentary Heads and the Principal Officers of the Museum, one at least of the former visit the Museum weekly or more frequently, and confer with such members of the Staff as the state of current business renders it desirable that he should consult.

That a wide discretion as to the duties of the Staff continue to be vested in the Parliamentary Heads and those immediately responsible to them, it being impossible to foresee what modifications of any given system may be called for by new circumstances. Your Committee desire, however, to state their opinion that (1) larger discretion as to purchases ought to rest with the Director of the Art Museum as well as with the Director of the Science Museum, and (2) that officers be as far as practicable assigned to different divisions in the Art Museum in order that they may become accomplished experts.

That the Director of the Science Museum should possess scientific attainments, and that the Director of the Art Museum have like qualifications as regards Art.

That



That the higher Staff at the South Kensington Museum, being in point of numbers inadequate to the due discharge of the duties imposed upon it, ought to be increased.

That, having regard to the annually increasing demand made by Local Museums and Schools of Art on the South Kensington Collection for circulation, it is desirable that the Parliamentary Grant for Purchases be increased.

That admission to all the Museums be always free.

That in accordance with their First Report of the present year the Science Museum and Science Library, provision for science instruction and for loans for scientific objects be placed on the west side of Exhibition Road exclusively, the Art Museum, the Art Library, provision for art teaching, and for loans of art objects being placed on the east side exclusively. The Royal College of Science may remain for a time, if the subjects taught be such as not to cause the discharge of gases injurious to art objects or danger of fire from inflammable and explosive substances. The scientific world have expressed their views in support of this arrangement of the buildings in a memorial presented to the Prime Minister by the Royal Society. Members of the Royal Academy and other artists have made like representations. The Department of Science and Art has not submitted to the Committee any evidence in an opposite sense, but members of their staff have given testimony in favour of the views expressed by your Committee.

That in accordance with the same report the Geological Museum in Jermyn Street be not occupied as now, but that the collections there exhibited be removed to the west side of Exhibition Road as a Science Collection. Care should be taken that all the special characteristics of the Jermyn Street Museum be preserved, and that the Collection when removed serve the same purposes as at present, with the exception that the artistic pottery should be placed in the Art Museum. The relations between the Geological Survey and the Geological Museum are such that the offices of the former must necessarily be in close proximity to the Geological Museum.

That provision be made for the residence of some of the principal officials in the immediate neighbourhood of the Museum within which they are employed.

That negotiations be carried forward with a view to transferring to some Local Authority the site and structure of the Bethnal Green Museum, the Dixon Collection of Pictures, and any other objects specially dedicated by donors under their wills or otherwise. They are of opinion that meanwhile more changes in the objects exhibited might be made with advantage to the district. The Committee, however, call attention to the evidence of the difficulty, if not impossibility, of obtaining subscriptions from the ground landlords and industrial capitalists. They are of opinion that further gifts of public money should only be given to meet corresponding contributions from local sources, by way either of rates or of private subscriptions.

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# PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

*Tuesday, 26th April 1898.*

## MEMBERS PRESENT :

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Bartley.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.

Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Platt-Higgins.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Yoxall.  
Mr. Kenrick.

Mr. *Whitworth Wallis*, F.S.A., was examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

*Friday, 29th April 1898.*

## MEMBERS PRESENT :

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. Daly.  
Sir John Gorst.

Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Yoxall.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.

Mr. *J. C. L. Sparkes* and Mr. *A. B. Skinner*, F.S.A., were examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock

*Friday, 6th May 1898.*

## MEMBERS PRESENT :

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Sir Henry Howorth.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Woodall.

Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Yoxall.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. Kenrick.

Mr. *A. B. Skinner*, F.S.A., was further examined.

Mr. *Arnold Graves* was examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.



*Tuesday, 10th May 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Lord Balcarras.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Bartley.

Mr. *Arnold Graves* was further examined.

Colonel *G. T. Plunkett*, Mr. *William John Courthorpe*, C.B., and Mr. *G. E. Spring Rice*, C.B., were examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

*Friday, 13th May 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. Daly.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Dr. Farquharson.

Mr. Woodall.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Yoxall.  
Sir John Gorst.

Mr. *John Lobb*, Mr. *Charles B. Blow*, and Mr. *George Nokes* were examined.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

*Tuesday, 17th May 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.

Mr. Daly.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Platt-Higgins.

The Right Rev. The *Lord Bishop of Stepney*, Principal *Thomas F. Roberts*, Professor *James J. Dobbin*, Professor *Edward Hull*, and Mr. *James Bartlett* were examined.

Mr. *George Nokes* was further examined.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

*Friday, 20th May 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Daly.

Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Yoxall.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Platt-Higgins.

Sir *Henry Roscoe*, F.R.S., was examined.

[Adjourned till Friday, 17th June, at Twelve o'clock.]



*Friday, 17th June 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Mr. Yoxall.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

*Friday, 24th June 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Daly.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Sir Henry Howorth.

Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.

DRAFT REPORT proposed by the *Chairman*, read the first time, as follows:

“ I.—PRELIMINARY.

(1.) Your Committee, in continuation of the inquiry of last Session, which occupied 27 sittings, have met 26 times and have further examined Sir John Donnelly and other Members of the Staff, as also Mr. W. J. Courthope, the First Civil Service Commissioner, and Mr. Spring Rice, Principal Clerk to the Treasury. They have received evidence from Sir H. Roscoe, who submitted a memorial from the Royal Society, and from Professor Hull on the importance of keeping together the collection in Jermyn Street. The Lord Bishop of Stepney gave evidence as to the Bethnal Green Museum, as did also others who reside in that district. Mr. Wallis, Director of the Museum and Art Gallery of Birmingham, did the like respecting Birmingham and other Provincial Museums, and Mr. Graves, Secretary to the Irish Charity Commissioners, explained his views on the Dublin Museum and the requirements of Ireland. Witnesses from two of the University Colleges in Wales appeared before your Committee.

“ II.—THE MUSEUMS TO WHICH THE INQUIRY RELATES.

“The Museums of the Science and Art Department, upon the cost and administration of which your Committee was appointed to inquire and report, are—

- “1. South Kensington and Branch Museum at Bethnal Green.
- “2. Geological Museum, Jermyn-street.
- “3. Dublin Museum of Science and Art.
- “4. Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art.

“ DESCRIPTIVE NOTICES.

“(A.)—SOUTH KENSINGTON AND BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUMS.

“(2.) The history of the collection has been so often given in official documents of many kinds that nothing is necessary for this Report beyond a short description of the circumstances under which it has been formed.

“In the year 1836 a sum of 1,500*l.* was voted for the establishment of a Normal School of Design with a Museum and Lectures. For this purpose the Council of the Government School of Design

Kal., Science  
and Art Dept.  
1898, p. viii.



was then constituted, the members being unpaid, with the Vice-President of the Board of Trade as an ex-officio member. The School was opened in Somerset House. In 1841 Government decided to make use of this agency to 'assist Schools of Design in the manufacturing districts, giving annual grants for the training of and payment of teachers, for the purchase of casts, and preparation of models for the students.'

Kalendar,  
Science and  
Art, 1898.

"In 1852 the Council was abolished and the 'Department of Practical Art' was substituted, with Mr. Cole as general superintendent, and Mr. Redgrave, R.A., as art adviser. In 1853 a science division was added, and 'The Department of Science and Art' was formed. This Department continued under the Board of Trade until the constitution, by Order in Council, of the Education Department in February 1856, to include the educational establishment of the Privy Council Office and 'The Department of Science and Art.' These two Departments were placed under the Lord President of the Committee of Council on Education assisted by a Vice-President. The subsequent stages of removal to Marlborough House and South Kensington are matters of administration arising out of expansion rather than of change of policy. The Parliamentary Grants of 64,675*l.* in 1856-7 had grown to 815,992*l.* in the year 1897-8. But these changes have never disturbed the original definition of 1852, that one of the objects of the new Department was to be 'the application of the principles of technical art to the improvement of manufactures, together with the establishment of museums by which all classes might be induced to investigate these common principles of taste which may be traced in the works of excellence of all ages.'

Mem. on  
circulation,  
App. 5 A, s. 3.

App. 5 A.

"In 1854 circulation among the Schools of Art of articles belonging to the Central Museum, with strict provision for public exhibition, was commenced, 'with a view to aid the instruction and encourage the formation of Local Museums.' The object was distinctly educational. Loans to Local Schools were then for the first time made, and have continued much on the present lines since that time. Some difficulty in practice having arisen as to circulation, a travelling collection was formed, but after six years was not found satisfactory, and was in 1859 returned to South Kensington.

"In the following year the travelling collection was reorganised, but in the year 1864 was found to have done its work, having been exhibited in all parts of the country during nearly ten years. The present system of circulation by separate loans, as distinguished from a regular travelling collection, was then finally adopted. At this period Local Museums began to be established in many districts, and in 1880, under the presidency of Earl Spencer and the vice-presidency of Mr. Mundella, still further encouragement was given to Local Museums, whether connected with Schools of Art or not, by loans to them from the Circulation Department. Among other reasons for this expansion were the magnificent donation of Sheepshank's Collection in 1857 and the greater liberality of Parliament, and also the proof by experience that articles of a fragile and delicate character can, with certain exceptions, be transported in safety under strict regulations. The evidence on this point given by the authorities of the Museum is eminently satisfactory.

"Donations and purchases illustrating branches of art not directly connected with manufactures from time to time extended the Museum so as to include art collections of an ornamental character.

"The number of visitors to the South Kensington Museum in 1896 was 1,135,797, and in 1897, 1,017,314. The number of visitors on Sundays in 1897 (the first complete year) was 100,044. Up to the end of 1897, 73,605,000 persons had visited the Museum. Admission is free on the West Side of Exhibition-road. On the East or Art Side a payment is made on three days in the week.

#### "(B).—BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUM.

Kal. p. lxxv.

44th Report,  
p. liii.

"(3.) In 1866 the larger part of the temporary iron buildings at South Kensington was removed to make room for a permanent structure, and employed in building the branch Museum at Bethnal Green for the reception of objects of science and art insufficiently provided for at South Kensington. The building was opened in 1872. The Bethnal Green Museum is regarded as a branch of the South Kensington Museum, and is for the most part worked by the same staff. The art collections are renewed from time to time. Loan and other exhibitions are held, including such objects as woven silk fabrics, coloured designs for such silks from Spitalfields weavers' pattern books. There was shown in 1896, for example, a large collection of furniture arranged chronologically. These collections excited much interest in the district, especially among artisans employed in the trades thus illustrated. In the present year there is an exhibition of shoes, some of remote antiquity, others of the present date, with illustrations by examples of different stages in the process of manufacture. There are also at Bethnal Green extensive modern art collections.

44th Report,  
p. liv.

"The number of visitors in 1896 was 383,709, in 1897, 366,102. The number on Sundays (1897) was 41,788. The number up to the end of 1896 is stated to be 13,807,434. Admission is free.

#### "(C).—MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, JERMYN STREET.

Kal. lxxiv.

"(4.) This museum originated from a representation, which met with the approval of the Government, by Sir H. de la Beche to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1835. The Museum in Jermyn Street was opened in May 1851. It was designed to illustrate the geology of Great Britain and Ireland, and to show the practical application of geological science. It therefore contains specimens illustrative of ores, the modes of treating them, and also of mineral substances used in the construction and in the decoration of buildings. It has been enriched by gifts, among others by that of minerals by the late Mr. Ludlam. There is also a valuable rock collection which now forms



forms a basis for the practical study of the rocks of the British Isles. The collection is intended to illustrate the stratigraphical geology of the United Kingdom. At the Natural History Museum the specimens are arranged biologically so as to form an exceedingly useful collection for biologists and zoologists, but not for those who are studying geology. There is no collection which serves their purpose except that at Jermyn Street. It is, moreover, necessary as evidence in confirmation of the geological survey and as illustrating it. Many years must pass before the geological survey of Great Britain can be completed in a manner corresponding with the progress of knowledge. The offices of the survey are, and, in the opinion of those acquainted with the subject, must necessarily be, near the Geological Museum. The Museum is largely used by advanced students for their own researches.

Hull, 2975.

Hull, 2987.  
2294.

2997.

"The teaching has been transferred to South Kensington, to which a large number of models of mines and mining machinery were accordingly removed, as has also the metallurgical section. When the school was transferred, about 10,000 volumes of the Library passed with the Schools, the Geological Museum retaining books which in the Director's opinion were absolutely necessary for the conduct of the Survey and for the Museum.

Report, 44.

5530.

"The Museum is technological rather than artistic, but contains a most valuable collection of pottery.

"The relation between the Jermyn Street Museum and South Kensington is purely official. The Director sends to South Kensington Annual Reports of the Museum and survey, and also of changes in administration, staff, &c. What remains with him is simply the administration of the Museum itself. Few purchases are now made, the sum of 240*l.* yearly being the amount voted. Lectures have been given in the Museum with much success.

5442.

"The number of visitors in 1896 was 34,261 on week-day mornings, 15,609 in the evenings, and 5,547 on Sundays. In 1897 the numbers were 34,719. Admission is free.

5450.

Kal. lvi.

#### "(D.)—EDINBURGH SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM.

"(5.) This Museum is founded upon 'The Natural History Museum at Edinburgh,' which was established in 1812. It contained Zoological, Geological, and Mineralogical Collections, and was in connection with the University, but received a Government Grant. This Museum, after having been in 1855 transferred by the Town Council, then the Patrons of the University, to the Department of Science and Art, passed in 1857 to the Committee of Council on Education. The Natural History and other collections were transferred from the University as the buildings made progress. These were completed in 1888. In 1864 the name of the Museum was changed to that of the Science and Art Museum. One-third of the Museum is Natural History. The Industrial Collections, commenced in 1851, have been increased by gifts and Parliamentary Grants, and include objects representing the Decorative Arts, Technology, and Engineering. The scope of the Museum is somewhat wider than that of South Kensington. The Art Industry section is valued at 94,628*l.*, the Science side at 28,956*l.*, taking the objects at the prices paid. The Library contains about 12,000 volumes. The value of the Loans from South Kensington is about 6,000*l.*

Kalendar, 76-8.

Sir R. M. Smith,  
3332.

3327.

3265.

"The Director states that he has always found great advantage and help from the officers at South Kensington. The Director has power to purchase up to the value of 20*l.* All other purchases are made under the authority of the department in London. Purchases are made to a considerable extent to serve trades and industries in Scotland. The present Director is General Sir R. Murdoch Smith, who has had large experience in archæological work, and formed, while in the East, a representative collection. The Museum is open free on three days a week and two evenings, and on three days a week, for a small payment. The average number of visitors annually is 360,000. The number in 1895 was 356,748, and in 1897, 338,287.

Donnelly, 80, 82,

Smith, 3428.

Smith, 3276.

#### "(E.) DUBLIN SCIENCE AND ART MUSEUM.

"(6.) The Dublin Museum, like that of Edinburgh, was earlier in foundation than the South Kensington Museum, and from the circumstances of its establishment is wider in the range of objects exhibited. The nucleus of the Museum was the Natural History Museum, and a very small Art Museum belonging to the Royal Dublin Society. The collection of the Royal Irish Academy was transferred to the Committee of Council in 1891. The principal branches are now the collection of Irish Antiquities, the richest in Europe, the Art and the Industrial, the Botanical and the Natural History, the Irish Geological Survey, and the General Mineralogical and Geological collections. For the superintendence of the National Library, 12 Trustees were appointed when it was transferred to the Committee of Council in 1877, and a Board of Visitors was constituted for their aid in the administration of the Science and Art Museum, the Natural History Collection, and the Botanic Gardens. The functions of these Trustees and Visitors is advisory only, but are found of great value and are discharged without any friction between them and other officials either in Dublin or in London. The present system of administration is described by the Director as excellent. The National Library serves all the purposes of an Art Library. It immediately joins the Museum, and when purchases are made full regard is had to the wants of the Art Library. There is a small Technical Art Library for the use of the officers. There is an admirable collection of Irish Lace, of what are called industrial things, looms, and specimens of saddlery and some iron work. The great aim is to make the Museum an Educational Institution. The Director desires, among other things, purchases of old Irish jewellery and furniture, which latter was a hundred years ago a great Irish industry. He much desires an extension

Plunkett, 4349.

4459.

4285.

4368.

4334.

4332-3.

454, 639.



4377. extension of the building. 'The great part of the Art Collection is overcrowded. There is no space where Zoologists and Students can examine specimens under the microscope. They suffer greatly from want of room.' The staff is, moreover, said to be inadequate in point of numbers.

4287 "The Director has the same power respecting purchases, both independently and on the authority of the Department, as has the Director of the Edinburgh Museum. The present Director is Lieutenant-Colonel Plunkett.

"The Museum is open daily, including Sundays, and on one evening in the week one half of the Museum is open, the other half being open on another evening. The Visitors in 1896 were 478,015, and in 1897, 420,315. Admission is free.

### "III.—THE BUILDINGS AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

#### "SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM, &c.

Donnelly, 15. "7. The Art Collections, including the Indian and Oriental Museum, are deposited partly in the Main Building to the east of Exhibition Road, and partly in galleries to the west of that road and to the north of the Imperial Institute Road, which are rented from the Commissioners of the International Exhibition of 1862 and the Imperial Institute. The Science Museum is partly in the Long Galleries on the south of that road to the west of Exhibition Road, the lower part of which was the arcade of the Horticultural Gardens, and the upper story was used as the refreshment rooms of the International Exhibition, 1862. Another part of the Science Museum is in Galleries to the north of that road. The Royal College of Art is in the first and second floors of the Main Building of the South Kensington Museum. The Oriental Collection is placed above a Gallery in the occupation of the Imperial Institute. This distribution of the buildings, scattered as they are over a large area and separated by wide thoroughfares, and in many instances unsuited to their present purposes, causes the greatest inconvenience and heavy expenditure, which would otherwise be unnecessary. The National Gallery of Portraits was temporarily placed in the Galleries, but has long been removed in consequence of imminent danger by fire.

Donnelly, 240. "8. The questions involved go far beyond inconvenience and cost. The main building, although in some parts insufficiently lighted, is, on the whole, well designed for use as a Museum. But the size is totally inadequate. There is, in consequence, great loss of efficiency. Earl Spencer, a former Lord President, complains of 'the inadequacy of the Museum, which causes congestion and prevents proper classification of works of Science and Art.' Dr. Middleton held the same opinion. Sir John Donnelly, the Secretary, says that the whole collection should be under one roof. There is evidence of much loss of time to the staff under present conditions. The Director for the Art Museum cannot devote the personal attention which he desires. He regards the present position as almost intolerable. It is stated that the objects cannot be satisfactorily exhibited. Mr. P. Purdon Clarke, 3980. Clarke says that want of space hampers purchases, and causes the loss of many opportunities which cannot recur.

3982.  
3983.  
3004-7. "9. The Art Library is especially cramped from want of room for storage of books. The Circulation Department, now so rapidly growing, is much hindered from want of room. Many suggestions for improvement have been made, the adoption of which really depends for the most part on provision of increased space.

Donnelly, 548. "10. A memorial presented to the Vice-President has been submitted to your Committee, Purdon Clarke, 2973. 3096. which bears the signature of the President of the Royal Academy and others practising branches of Art as a profession, wherein, after stating their views as to the extent to which the South Kensington Museum has stimulated and educated opinion in Art matters, and the profound impression which it has had on the progress and revival of the Industrial Arts, they pray that active steps be taken to complete the building.

Appendix, No. 40, p. 581. "11. But little relief can be secured by the elimination of objects. The removal of objects which ought to be removed as unsatisfactory would not cure the evil complained of, the collection as a whole being of a satisfactory character, according to the testimony of the Earl of Carlisle, the late Dr. Middleton, and other authorities. Lord Carlisle, 8058-9. Sir C. Robinson, however, expresses an opposite opinion, General Festing, 2138. but adds that the collection is the most important in Europe. For other reasons the process of further weeding out would be difficult. Exhibits of an unsatisfactory character have already been removed. Opinions would differ. For example, while objects of a valuable and unique character would have the preference with some, others would regard other specimens more important from a teaching point of view.

Donnelly, 711. "It is necessary, moreover, to reserve spaces for objects in circulation that this may be duly placed on return. It must also be remembered that a very large number of persons annually visit the collections in London and derive great advantage from the opportunities afforded to them at South Kensington.

Robinson. Donnelly, 760. 559. "For these reasons your Committee repeat the recommendation made in the Second Report of 1897, that the building on the east side of Exhibition Road be forthwith completed and appropriated to the purposes of Art exclusively. Provision should be made for Science exclusively on the other side of the road.

Appendix 31  
p. 541.  
Donnelly, 477.



## "IV.—STAFF AT THE MUSEUMS.

## "(1.) OFFICERS WHO CONSTITUTE THE STAFF.

"12. The Department of Science and Art being one of the establishments which, by the Order in Council of 25th March 1856, were to constitute the Education Department, the Parliamentary responsibility for the administration of these Museums rests with the Lord President and the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education. The Museums and the Department generally are administered by a staff of which the Secretary, Sir J. F. D. Donnelly, K.C.B., is the permanent Head and Accounting Officer of the Department. Communications with the Heads of the Department are conducted by him. The permanent staff of the Department besides the usual Secretarial Branch has two divisions, which are partly administrative and partly technical—the Science Division, of which the Director is Captain W. de W. Abney, C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S.; and the Art Division, of which Mr. T. Armstrong, C.B., is the Director. These officers, among their other duties, are the advisers of the Lords of the Committee of Council in matters connected with the Museums.

## "SOUTH KENSINGTON AND BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUMS.

"The special staff for the administration of these Museums is:—

Donnelly,  
App. A. 9 A.

## "Science Museum:

- "The Director (Major-General Festing, F.R.S.).
- "1 Keeper and 1 Junior Assistant for the Applied Science Collection.
- "1 Keeper and 2 Assistant Keepers for the Collections of Scientific Apparatus and Circulation.
- "1 Junior Assistant for the Science Library.

## "Art Museum:

- "The Director (Mr. C. Purdon Clarke, C.I.E.).
- "An Assistant Director (Mr. Skinner).
- "1 Keeper and 1 Junior Assistant for Textiles.
- "1 Assistant Keeper and 1 Junior Assistant for the Furniture.
- "1 Junior Assistant for the Metal work.
- "1 Assistant Keeper for the Pottery.
- "An Assistant Director for Sculpture, Ivories, and reproductions in Plaster.
- "1 Keeper, 2 Assistant Keepers, and 2 Junior Assistants for the Art Library.
- "1 Keeper and 1 Assistant Keeper for the Circulation Department.
- "1 Keeper in charge of Indian Section.
- "Among these Keepers one is in charge of Museum Publications, Dyce and Forster Libraries.

## "Bethnal Green:

- "1 Assistant Keeper (resident officer).
- "1 Junior Assistant.

## "Summary:—

- "2 Directors.
- "1 Assistant Director.
- "7 Keepers.
- "8 Assistant Keepers.
- "8 Junior Assistants.

"Of these the three Directors, the Assistant Director, and one Museum Keeper are resident officers, it having been thought requisite that one of them, at least, should be on the premises day and night. All official correspondence of the Museum is carried on through the general staff of the Department; but there are three Second Division Clerks specially employed in the Museum Director's office for miscellaneous work.

"All the officers in the Museum are under the direct supervision and control of the Directors, upon whom the responsibility for the administration of the Museum and its Bethnal Green branch mainly rests. The Directors of the Science and Art Museums respectively are required to consult the Directors for Science or for Art, as the case may be, with regard to all purchases, and the opinions of the Directors for Art and Science are recorded, whenever this is practicable, on all proposals for purchase which require the sanction of the heads of the Department. The Director for Art has, in addition, special charge of all pictures in the Museum.

"The hourly paid staff consists of eight special and technical assistants, temporary clerical assistants, attendants, and messengers. There are 61 attendants and seven messengers specially attached to the Museum, and 13 attendants and 34 messengers attached to the Department offices and the Royal Colleges of Science and of Art. But in times of pressure some of these are lent from one branch to the other.

Donnelly, 788.

The



App. 5, 6,  
pp. 484-6.

"The police at these museums, who are under the control of the superintendent of the local division of police, keep order therein, protect the property, and patrol the museums.

"They consist of—

"(1.) For the main building of the South Kensington Museum:—

"1 Inspector.  
"3 Sergeants.  
"37 Constables.

"(2.) For the South Kensington Museum, Western, Southern, and Indian Galleries:—

"1 Sergeant.  
"24 Constables.

"(3.) For the Bethnal Green Branch Museum:—

"3 Sergeants.  
"7 Constables.

"At South Kensington the number of attendants and of Police is larger than would otherwise be the case in consequence of the character of the buildings and the crowded condition of the collections.

#### (2.) APPOINTMENT OF STAFF.

Donnelly, 66, &c.

"13. The Secretary for the Science and Art Department, the Director for Science, and the Director for Art, and also the Director for the Science Museum and the Director for the Art Museum, are appointed by the Lord President; the four latter under the 4th Section of the Superannuation Act, 1859.

Donnelly, 53, &c.

"To the other higher offices also, including those of Assistant Keeper and Museum Keeper, the appointments are made by the Lord President, and ordinarily by promotion from those who have entered the Museum as junior assistants. These junior assistants are selected by open competition, the examination being conducted by the Civil Service Commissioners, in accordance with a scheme which has been settled between them and the Lord President and approved by the Treasury. The decision as to the appointment rests in each case with the Commissioners. The age of a candidate is between 18 and 25. The Lord President has the power, if he thinks that there is nobody available in the Museum who is duly qualified for promotion to grades above that of junior assistant, to bring in some one from the outside, with the sanction of the Treasury; but even in that case the Civil Service Commissioners must be satisfied, after evidence produced, that he is qualified for the post, and give their certificate accordingly.

Donnelly, 70.

Donnelly, 68.

Donnelly, 790.

"There are members of the subordinate staff consisting of attendants, who are appointed by the Lord President on the recommendation of the Directors for the Science and Art Museums respectively. There is also a lower class, such as artizans and labourers, who are engaged by the Director of the Science Museum, who has charge of the Works Department, but are not entitled to a pension.

Festing, 2695.

#### "(3.) DUTIES OF STAFF.

"14. The duties of the Secretary have been already explained.

"The Directors for Science and Art respectively have duties in the Museum which have not been very clearly defined.

"The Director of the Science Museum (Major-General Festing) is responsible for the maintenance of all the buildings occupied by the museums at South Kensington.

Festing, 2102.

"The Director for the Science Museum has the whole of the Science Museum under his Direction, with the help of keeper and assistants.

Purdon Clarke,  
1946.

"The Director for the Art Museum (Mr. Purdon Clarke) holds there an analogous position to that held by General Festing in the Science Museum, and has similar assistance from keepers and other officers.

"There is a staff of artizans and labourers who are employed in either museum or in both, as may be required by the varying exigencies of the service. For example, preparations for the examination of students' work, and arrangements for exhibition of successful work makes, during part of the year, an exceptionally heavy demand for the service of the Art School.

#### "GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM, JERMYN STREET.

##### "STAFF AND DUTIES.

Geikie, 5446.

"15. The Director is Sir A. Geikie, who has the assistance of a Curator. There are also an Assistant Librarian and an Assistant Curator, together with attendants, &c.

#### "EDINBURGH MUSEUM.

##### "STAFF AND DUTIES.

Donnelly, 43.

"16. At the Edinburgh Museum there is a separate Director (General Sir R. Murdoch Smith, K.C.M.G.), a Curator, and a Keeper of the National History Department. There are under them assistants and other subordinates of the ordinary classes.

"17. There



## "DUBLIN MUSEUM.

## "STAFF AND DUTIES.

"17. There is a Director (Colonel Plunkett), who also acts as Secretary to the Royal College of Science in Dublin. There is a Keeper of the Natural History Department, a Keeper of the Art and Industrial Department, and a Keeper of the Collection of Irish Antiquities. There are also assistants and other subordinates.

## "V.—COST OF SOUTH KENSINGTON AND BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUMS.

"18. There are three sources of expenditure at the South Kensington Museum which must of necessity greatly increase the annual cost as compared with other Museums.

"(1.) The nature of the buildings, which are scattered without any carefully-devised plan over a large space and are divided into separate structures, each with the necessary provision for security by police at the entrances and elsewhere, as also against fire.

"(2.) The difficulty of effective supervision, and therefore the cost is larger than would be the case if there was one carefully-designed and well-arranged building.

"(3.) The character of the work therein conducted.

"(a.) *The Connection with the Schools at South Kensington.*

"19. It is beyond the province of your Committee to enter upon questions relating to the Schools; but it is self-evident the use of objects by the Schools both of Science and of Art must increase the cost of administration both in the carriage of objects between the Schools and the Museum and in the necessary clerical work for the conduct of this business.

"(b.) *The Circulation Department.*

"20. In other Museums the objects forming the collection are kept in the same place, except so far as redistribution may be necessary from time to time. At South Kensington, on the other hand, all the objects are, in theory at any rate, available for circulation, and in fact one-quarter in value, far more than a quarter in number of the whole, is constantly in circulation, the time for which each loan is made varying from 12 weeks to a year, except in the case of deposit loans, which remain for a longer period. This system, which carries out in an effectual manner 'a fundamental principle' of the Museum, involves a large expenditure not only in the duplications of objects but also in management. The removal of objects from their cases, the careful packing, the safe deposit in suitable cases at their destination, and their restoration to their cases after strict examination, involve much cost. There is also expenditure in visits to the provinces and the services of the staff in consultation with and offering suggestions to those responsible for Local Museums and Schools—an assistance greatly valued by them. This expenditure must necessarily increase as the demands for loans grow. There have also been loan exhibitions of special branches of art which have been highly appreciated, but involved much outlay. It must be noted that the Circulation Department occupies space, the provision and maintenance of which must cause expenditure.

Kal. p. xliii.

"There are also grants in aid of the purchase of objects for Museums in the country. This is a distinct duty, and ought not to be regarded as part of the cost of the Museum.

Kal. p. xxiv.

## "Estimate of Cost, 1897–98.

## "SOUTH KENSINGTON AND BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUMS.

## "Class 1, Vote 6.

		Page of Estimate.	£.	£.
" M.	The Eastern and Western Exhibition Galleries, South Kensington, are held from the 1851 Exhibition Commissioners on a 50 years' lease, as from Christmas 1891, at an annual rent of - - - - -	25	3,662	
" M.	The North (or Cross) Gallery, South Kensington, is held from the Imperial Institute on a 49 years' lease, as from Christmas 1892, at a yearly rent of -	25	864	
	Annual rent, South Kensington Museum - -		4,526	
" J 2	Works and alterations of a minor character (part of) -	24	200	
" K.	Maintenance and Repairs, South Kensington - -	"	2,500	
	" " Bethnal Green - -	"	350	
"Total - - - - -				£7,576



"Class 4, Vote 2.

		Page of Estimate.	£.	£.
"E 1 to 3.	Salaries of Staff, including occasional Professional Assistance - - - - -	337	10,274	
"F 1 to 4.	Purchases, Carriage, &c. - - - - -	"	14,360	
"H 1.	Salaries of Stores Branch (portion) - - - - -	347	816	
"H 2.	Copying Museums, and portion taken under "Stores" - - - - -	"	817	
"H 3.	Attendants (South Kensington, India, and Bethnal Green Museums) and portion taken under "Stores" - - - - -	"	15,847	
"H 4.	Police - - - - -	"	11,900	
"H 5.	Furniture and Fitting up Objects (South Kensington, India, and Bethnal Green Museums) - - - - -	348	3,700	
"H 6.	Artisans, Cleaners, &c. - - - - -	"	11,600	
"H 7.	Heating and Lighting (South Kensington, India, and Bethnal Green Museums) - - - - -	"	5,335	
"H 8.	Travelling Museums and Circulation - - - - -	"	800	
"H 9.	Incidental Expenses (portion) - - - - -	"	846	
"Total - - - - -				76,295
				<u>£83,871</u>

"APPROXIMATE COST OF MAINTENANCE OF BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUM, 1897-98 (irrespective of Higher Staff, &c., Employed both at SOUTH KENSINGTON and BETHNAL GREEN).

Subhead.	"Class IV., 2.	£.	£.
"E 1. Direction - - - - -	- - - - -	450	
"H 3. Attendants - - - - -	- - - - -	930	
"H 6. Artisans - - - - -	- - - - -	1,545	
"H 4. Police - - - - -	- - - - -	1,633	
"H 5. Furniture - - - - -	- - - - -	900	
"H 7. Heating and Lighting - - - - -	- - - - -	480	
"H 9. Petty Expenses - - - - -	- - - - -	50	
		5,988	
"Class I., 6.			
"K. Maintenance and Repairs - - - - -	- - - - -	350	
			<u>6,338</u>

"GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM.

"Class 1, Vote 6.

		Page of Estimate.	£.
"K.	Maintenance - - - - -	24	200
"M.	Rent - - - - -	"	853

"Class 4, Vote 2.

"I. 1 to 6.	Salaries and Wages, Police, Specimens, Furniture, Heating, Lighting, Cleaning, &c. - - - - -	338	3,966	
"Total - - - - -				<u>5,019</u>

"EDINBURGH MUSEUM.

"Class 1, Vote 6.

"J.	Works and Alterations of a minor Character - - - - -	24	100	
"K.	Maintenance and Repairs - - - - -	"	940	
"L.	Furniture - - - - -	25	75	
"M.	Rent (Feu Duty) - - - - -	"	12	
"N.	Water - - - - -	"	10	
	Fuel and Light - - - - -	"	1,200	
"Total - - - - -				<u>2,337</u>

"Class 4, Vote 2.

"K. 1 to 8.	Salaries and Wages, Police, Specimens, Furniture, Cleaning, &c. - - - - -	338	12,870	
"Total - - - - -				<u>15,207</u>



## "DUBLIN MUSEUM AND LIBRARY.

## "Class 1, Vote 14.

		Page of Estimate.	£.
"B.	National Library Lift - - - - -	64	180
	Refreshment Rooms, &c. - - - - -	"	800
	Lantern in Roof - - - - -	"	300
"C.	Maintenance and Supplies - - - - -	"	1,338
"D.	Furniture - - - - -	"	375
"E.	Rent - - - - -	"	201
"F.	Fuel, Light, Water, &c. - - - - -	"	1,910
"Total - - - - -			<u>5,104</u>

## "Class 4, Vote 2.

	"Police (Class 3, Vote 19) - - - - -	299	977
"L. 1.	Salaries and Wages (part only) - - - - -	338	7,569
"L. 2 to 8.	Furniture, Uniforms, Salaries, and Wages - - - - -	338-9	
	"Professional Assistance, Purchases, &c. - - - - -	"	9,494
"Total - - - - -			<u>23,144</u>

## "VI.—REMARKS ON SPECIAL SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE SOUTH KENSINGTON AND BETHNAL GREEN MUSEUMS.

## "A.—PURCHASES.

## "(1.) ART MUSEUM, INCLUDING LIBRARY.

"(21.) The process adopted when purchases are made may be briefly described as follows:

"Objects are generally brought to the notice of the Director of the Museum (now Mr. Purdon Clarke) by the Keeper (now Mr. S. Skinner), in many cases with a minute from him. The Director then immediately writes a minute, if he finds that he understands the object and is quite certain about it, and consults the Director for Art, Mr. Armstrong. That Director then writes a minute agreeing or disagreeing with the minute of Mr. Purdon Clarke. This report then goes on to the Secretary, Sir J. Donnelly, who either submits it with his own recommendation to the President or Vice-President, or, if he thinks it necessary, gives instruction to obtain the opinion of experts on the Committee of Advice of the Department, an opinion which is sometimes obtained independently by the Parliamentary Chiefs of the Department when the matter comes up before either of them. The Museum Director may make purchases up to 20*l.* with the sanction of the Director for Art, but that sanction is not rigidly insisted upon in cases where the exigencies of the case render it necessary to make the purchase without such consultation so as to prevent the loss of the object. As regards purchases at auctions, the regulations are slightly modified. In those instances the Director or the Keeper usually goes down to the auction room, and his report is submitted to the Vice-President. Due precautions are taken to prevent competition with the British Museum and any other Department.

"(22.) A permanent record is kept of all these transactions and of the written reports. The Secretary as accounting officer has ultimate control from a financial point of view.

"(23.) There was formerly a salaried office, that of Art Referee and Inspector-General of Art, which was abolished in 1867 by a minute of the Committee of Council, dated 23rd December, and a body of referees substituted. They were to be selected from 'the most competent persons, to be employed as occasion arises, the Department paying them a consulting fee when they are asked to advise.' Some changes were effected by a subsequent minute of 9th May, 1882, which provides that 'for the under-mentioned collections in South Kensington and Bethnal Green Museums there shall be a body of referees or advisers who can be consulted as to the purchases, elimination of objects, cataloguing, general arrangements, &c., either singly or in Committee, as occasion may require, provided that there is always a meeting of each Committee for general inspection of the collection, with regard to which it advises once every year. This will not preclude the employment and payment of a specialist from time to time to carry on a definite piece of work.' The referees originally appointed were Mr. Bodley, A.R.A., and Mr. C. Butler, the Earl of Carlisle, Mr. Walter Crane, Mr. F. Du Cane Godman, F.R.S., Mr. T. P. Heseltine, Mr. W. De Morgan, Mr. A. Morrison, Mr. T. H. Pollen, Sir E. J. Poynter, P.R.A., Mr. Salting, F.S.A., and Mr. Alma-Tadema, R.A. The list was revised in 1884, when some further changes were carried out. The referees appointed by this minute continue in office, with certain changes from death and other causes.



Donnelly, 77.  
106.  
Appendix 9,  
p. 494.

Donnelly, 73, &c.

"(24.) There are also referees for the Indian Museum and various other sections. The referees were at one time much consulted, but after the appointment of Dr. Middleton their advice has been less sought. There have been, in fact, only 148 references to them between June, 1887, and June, 1897, inclusive, at a cost of 645*l.* 15*s.* There have been one or two meetings of the full Committee, but separate members have always been consulted. The opinion of the President of the Royal Academy, for example, although not on the list, is almost always obtained with reference to pictures. "The cost of the purchases for the South Kensington Art Museum is met by an annual vote. The votes for the purchase of works of art were from 1885-6 to 1887 10,000*l.* In 1887-8 and the following year 7,000*l.* In 1888-9 to 1891-2 10,000*l.* In 1892-3 7,300. From 1893-4 to 1895-6 10,000*l.*, and in the years 1896-7 and 1897-8 7,000*l.*

"The amount of the vote unexpended at the end of the year was up to March 31, 1897, returned to the Treasury, but being now "a rate in aid" any balance unexpended may be spent in succeeding years subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General. This change was made in consequence of the great inconvenience and disadvantages which arose from the return of any unexpended balance.

Donnelly, A. 43.

## "(2.) SCIENCE MUSEUM, INCLUDING LIBRARY.

Festing, 2364.

"(25.) Purchases are made by the Director of the Science Museum up to 20*l.*, and are conducted on the same principles and generally on similar methods in the Science Museum and in the Art Museum. There are Science referees to advise when necessary in cases of purchase.

## "B.—CIRCULATION.

### "1. ART MUSEUM, INCLUDING THE LIBRARY.

Kal. lxviii.

Mem. p. 5.

Directory, p. 64.

"(26.) Objects are circulated to (1) Permanent Museums at Schools of Science and Art for a period of 12 months, at the end of which period new contributions may be sent; (2) to the same on what is known as "deposit loan," in which case the objects are permitted to remain for a longer period; (3) to Museums established under a Municipal or Local Authority; and (4) to Schools of Science and Art for exhibition, and also to classes not directly connected with the Department, but which are attended by students of Schools of Art for the purpose of technical study in the various arts and crafts. The objects circulated in the last-mentioned class are ordinarily not of the same character, and, therefore, are not secured against injury or loss by the same precautions as is the practice in the case of loans to Museums. They include framed examples, such as textile fabrics, lace, original designs, book-bindings, drawings and photographs of iron work, wood carving, and pottery, as also students' works, in order to show the standard required at the examinations. Further particulars on these points are given below.

Cun lall, 5789.

Purdon Clarke,

3027.

Purdon Clarke,

3128.

Donnelly, 322.

Cundall, 5977

899.

Donnelly, 655.

Donnelly, 132.

"(27.) For the same purpose examples of oil paintings and water colours suitable for copying have been lent to the Schools for many years. Loans for the Schools are, however, not purchased from the circulation vote. All these loans are made on application by the localities. The officer directly in charge of the circulation is then sent down. He inspects the building and reports to the Director whether he thinks it a proper building. He also meets the Committee of the Local Museum and ascertains the class of objects which they desire, and, very often, what are the local requirements. A complete report is then sent in to the Director, and finally, if all prove satisfactory, receives the sanction of the Board. The authorities of the Museum or Schools of Art usually visit the Museum and confer with the Director or the Keeper as to the selection of objects. Discussions have arisen whether the objects should be confined to one class illustrating the trade of the district or should be more general in character. On this question there is often considerable difference of opinion in the locality. The ordinary custom is to extend the collection beyond objects relating to the local trade. Every effort is made to meet the local wishes. It is the duty of Mr. Watts, who has the charge of the Circulation Department, to make selections for each locality, and to submit them to the Art Director of the Museum for his approval.

Donnelly, 322.

Cundall, 5977

899.

Donnelly, 655.

Donnelly, 132.

"(28.) There is ample evidence from those to whom loans are made that they are satisfied with the treatment which they receive. Communications in that sense have reached the Department in large numbers. The circulation is conducted by sending the objects to Museums from South Kensington. They are there unpacked by attendants of that Museum, who place them in glass cases under key, where they remain until unpacked in the same manner, and are returned to South Kensington for examination. The cost of transport is shared between the Department and the localities.

Cundall, 5848,

&c.

Kalendar,

pp. xlviii, xlix.

44th Rep., p. 308.

"(29.) A limited number of books upon the subject of Art applied to Industry belonging to the Art Library are used for circulation among Schools of Art, and special application is to be made for other books. They are between 2,000 and 3,000 in number, and are kept in circulation, being collated in the Circulation Department, not in the Museum. It may here be stated that the entire number of volumes in the Art Library exceeds 80,000, bought at a cost of 85,858*l.* There are also 240,000 original drawings, prints, engravings of ornaments, and photographs.

"(30.) In the 15 years between 1881 and 1895, both inclusive, 886 collections were sent out, most of them on loan to Provincial Museums. In the year 1896 33,960 objects were on loan to 55 Provincial Museums, 22 Temporary Exhibitions, 23 Schools of Art, 8 Art Classes and 59 Science Schools.



Schools. From a subsequent return it appears that at a later date 35,400 objects were in circulation, the number of Museums and of Art Schools having objects being 62 and 262 respectively. The objects which are for the most part practically available for circulation, including reproductions, have cost, from 1856 to 1895-6, 478,836*l*. The various gifts were estimated in 1885 as worth 1,000,000*l*. in the market at the time when they were received. The value of the entire collection is at present largely in excess of these figures.

Kalendar, 1897,  
p. xlviii.

"The articles now in circulation form a quarter of the whole collection, calculated on the basis of the purchase money actually paid.

Donnelly, 720.

"(31.) The number of Museums, especially Industrial Museums and those of technical, desiring loans increases, and will increase. Earl Spencer expresses his extreme regret that the purchases vote which must affect the whole business of the Museum, including circulation, had been curtailed. Mr. Purdon Clarke, who has the chief responsibility for the circulation, is of opinion that lack of money already considerably hampers the circulation. Sir J. Donnelly expresses a hope that the grant may be considerably increased. Mr. Cundall, eighteen years directly in charge of the circulation, says that up to the present time it has been possible to meet the demands out of the material available for circulation, but such will no longer be the case unless the collection is enlarged by expenditure in purchases.

Spencer, 5024.

Purdon Clarke,  
3992.

Cundall, 6003-6

"(32.) The resources of the Museum may be largely increased by means of reproduction. Great care is required in this process, which is attended with more risk than was first supposed or even certain injury to the original. In Vienna, at the Kuntsgewerbe Museum, there is a large factory for making coloured reproductions of objects of all kinds, including imitations of pottery, bronzes, wood carvings, and almost everything but textiles, in plaster, coloured and gilt, and worked up to look like the original objects. Mr. Purdon Clarke considers this the only way of extending the system to the smaller Schools. Even in the case of large Museums these reproductions are of great value, and afford to all much earlier opportunities of studying good examples than would otherwise be possible.

Purdon Clarke,  
4173.

"(33.) Much controversy has taken place, and probably may continue, as to the proportion of this collection which ought to be exhibited in London. From the first days, it may be remarked, even before the aid given to Local Schools, there was a Museum in London. 'Lord Spencer, formerly Lord President, attaches immense importance to the circulation business of the Department. It prevents the work being centred in London alone. It gives the inhabitants in every part of the kingdom where there is a Local Museum the opportunity of seeing and studying the best specimens of art, and raises the standard of appreciation all over the country.' The following statements from members of the staff may best explain the principles on which the circulation is now conducted. Mr. Purdon Clarke regards the Museum as essentially a circulating Museum for the advantage of the country at large. Sir J. Donnelly says that 'the circulation has always been a fundamental part of the Museum. He does not know whether you could say that that or the exhibition in London was the more important. The Museum has two special functions.' In principle every object is available for circulation. But there are some objects built into the wall, or of such size that they cannot be transported; others are of a delicate and unique character, so that it would be dangerous to send them to the provinces. The Local Museums have had the good sense not to insist in such cases, and no single dispute has arisen.

Spencer, 5024.

Donnelly.

Donnelly, 727.  
Purdon Clarke,  
3107.

Purdon Clarke,  
3040.

"(34.) It must also be remembered that the South Kensington Museum is the central and principal Museum in England. Collectors and other people come from all parts expecting to examine a perfect series find it broken up by extensive loans. They find that special objects to which their attention has in many cases been directed are in different parts of the country, and are much aggrieved.

Purdon Clarke,  
3110.

Armstrong,  
4874.

"(35.) There is, moreover, a larger body of students of various kinds to use the objects in London than in the provinces. The vast population of the Metropolis, the seat, be it remembered, of important manufactures, must be taken into consideration, as any given object is more within reach of the largest number in London than elsewhere.

Donnelly, 179.

Armstrong,  
4875.

"(36.) Suggestions have been made for a classification, some objects being permanently exhibited in London, others being always in circulation. Such a scheme, whether expedient or not in itself, is at present, at least, impracticable. The material is not sufficient to meet the two-fold demand. Either the series at South Kensington must suffer in continuity and completeness or the Provincial Museums would be ill served. A larger grant continued during many years with that special view is an essential condition for the adoption of such a plan.

"(37.) A question of much importance arises in reference to loan of objects to Schools with permission to handle them there. On the one hand it is urged that, to take one example, viz. porcelains and objects of that kind, they are useful to the student if there is the possibility of handling them and examining their surfaces, so as to use both the eye and the sense of touch. It is alleged that the value of examples of chinaware and porcelains depends on their age and can only be certified by being handled.

Donnelly, 757.

Purdon Clarke,  
3040.

"(38.) On the other hand, however, there are grave practical difficulties from probable if not certain injury to valuable objects if handled. It must, moreover, be remembered that this is in many cases not a question of cost only. The number of objects, including books, produced in former ages is of necessity limited, and an object once destroyed cannot be replaced. The present holders do in fact hold them, in one sense, as trustees. On this subject the officers in charge of the collections are of opinion that this method would be attended with risks, or even certain mischief, which renders it impracticable. Mr. Armstrong is of opinion that it is only when you come to

Purdon Clarke,  
3043

Armstrong,  
4905.



Purdon Clarke,  
3040.

Donnelly, 757.

Cundall, 5894,  
&c.

technical education that you require to handle the things. When it comes to very minute pieces of metal work, which are most precious and have to be more carefully guarded than others, it becomes very difficult to let people have them out into their own hands. Mr. Purdon Clarke says that he has had practical experience in handing over objects to teachers and students, and should consider it his duty to oppose any request that anything of value should be placed in an Art School excepting under glass and carefully locked up. Even although the greatest care is taken the wear and tear of a class would be too much. And we have, he adds, found this from experience of still-life objects which we have lent to schools; they become damaged in course of time. As to china, he says that arrangements are easily made so that private marks may be easily shown or explained. Sir J. Donnelly is of opinion that they cannot allow Museum objects to be taken out of their cases and handled. No one could be answerable. Mr. Cundall, who was during 18 years in charge of the circulation, expresses the same opinion.

Appendix 45,  
pp. 586-588.

Skinner, 1826, A.

"(39.) Something, however, of an effective character may be done to overcome this difficulty. Mr. Purdon Clarke has submitted a paper which was published with the Second Report, 1897 (Appendix 24), showing 'the objects which could be recommended for use in Technical and Art Classes, and at the same time be of such a nature as to bear handling by the masters and students.' His scheme includes wood carving, textile fabrics, pottery, metal work, repoussé work, and hammered iron work. Much use is, under this scheme, made of reproductions of gesso work and other work, and of photographs taken for the express purpose of illustration. Loans are thus made to Local Schools of objects which will bear handling. The rule that the public must be admitted where objects are lent is not always enforced as regards this class of objects in the case of loans to Art Schools. The Authorities are now sending on loan exhibits showing different stages and processes, *e.g.*, of lace, leather work, cloisonné work, and other kinds of work.

## " 2. SCIENCE MUSEUM, INCLUDING LIBRARY.

"(39\*.) Circulation to a limited extent takes place at the Science Museum. Science objects are also used for instruction in the College of Science.

## " C.—TRANSFER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

Appendix 2,  
p. 451.

"(40.) Suggestions have been made for a transfer of the management of the South Kensington Museum to the Trustees of the British Museum. In the year 1873 a Committee of Privy Council and the Trustees of the British Museum was appointed 'to ascertain and report what arrangements would have to be made to give effect to the proposal to transfer the South Kensington Museum and the Bethnal Green Museum to the Trustees of the British Museum. The attention of the Committee was directed to three branches of inquiry:—

"(1.) What collections ought, in that case, to be handed over to the Trustees of the British Museum and what collections retained by the Education Department?

"(2.) In what manner and to what extent can, in that case, the existing buildings be divided between the Education Department and the Trustees of the British Museum?

"(3.) What arrangement would be most satisfactory as regards warming, &c., and protection against fire?

"The appointment of this Committee did not arise from any decision or resolution which have been published in favour of transfer, but from a desire that the subject be investigated.

"(41.) Lord Sandford, Mr. Macleod, and Sir John Donnelly, all of whom acted on behalf of the Museum, stated in the report that although the best suggestions had been made such transfer could not be adopted. Apart from the structural difficulties there were the gravest objections on grounds of policy. Among others there was the difference of aim. Sir John Donnelly pointed out, as did Lord Sandford, that the object of the South Kensington Museum and the Bethnal Green Museum is to afford a means of educating students, primarily those under the Science and Art Department, and secondarily the outside public who may avail themselves of them. The collection at South Kensington was not for self-instruction, as is the British Museum, but is essentially the apparatus for teaching, or matter of State aid for Education in Art.

"(42.) The connection between South Kensington and the Schools is in the opinion of your Committee, of itself a sufficient reason why the South Kensington Museum should remain under the Education Department. That Department being entrusted with education, and in constant communication with local authorities, is best qualified to judge what is required to advance education. The purchases have been made with that view and will continue to be so made. It would be impossible for the Trustees of the British Museum, having no official connection with education, to make purchases for educational purposes in an equally effective manner, or to conduct affairs with the same knowledge of the educational requirements of the day. Friction, delay, and other injury to education must arise from such overlapping of authorities.

"(43.) It is easy to foresee that purchases by the Trustees would ere long cease to be made with a view to the purposes of an Educational and Industrial Museum. One aim or the other must inevitably be sacrificed if the same authority attempts the twofold and often conflicting duties. It is not necessary here to discuss the difficulties resulting from the joint occupation of the buildings, which



which were considered by the committee of 1873. There is also the question of responsibility to Parliament. This responsibility cannot be regarded as equally complete and direct when an institution is in the hands of trustees however accomplished and zealous those trustees may be.

#### " D.—BETHNAL GREEN OR BRANCH MUSEUM.

" (44.) Some remarks must be made on the history of the Bethnal Green Museum. In the year 1866 it was proposed that the temporary building in which some of the collections at South Kensington were exhibited be divided into three parts and from branch museums in London. This proposal is one of much interest, having arisen from the first crude idea of institutions in different districts of London with an educational influence which has at length found expression in the great technical institutions of the metropolis. There was no response from the North (Finsbury) or the South (Tower Hamlets); but a sum of 2,000*l.* was subscribed for the purchase of 4½ acres of land held on a charity trust in Bethnal Green for a recreation ground and as a site for a museum and fine art gallery, whereon one-third of the temporary building above-mentioned was to be erected. On this site the Bethnal Green Museum was placed, at a cost originally estimated at 5,000*l.* It was opened in 1872, and has since been maintained at an annual cost of not less than 5,000*l.*, probably at a much greater outlay. The maintenance during the last 26 years has therefore cost the taxpayers not less than 132,000*l.*, probably much more. Considerable discussion arose as to the nature of the collection to be there deposited. It was ultimately decided that the branch museum should serve for the reception of objects of science and art which were insufficiently provided for at South Kensington, such as the collection of animal products. It is by no means certain that the wants of the district were duly considered in this arrangement. The collection of animal products and the food collection could possess no permanent attraction. The distance from South Kensington has necessarily prevented the head of the South Kensington Museum from devoting much personal attention. There is no local committee, representative or other, to aid the officer in charge by suggestions as to the class of objects which would best meet the real wants of the district. On the other hand, it must be remembered that if the museum is to become simply a local museum maintained at the cost of the taxpayer, other districts may claim corresponding advantages, and parliament may decline to continue a special and exceptional privilege for one district alone.

" (45.) The Bishop of Stepney says that he regards the museum as "an opportunity lost," and it may be questioned whether the difficulties can be removed except by resuming the negotiations with the Technical Instruction Committee of the London County Council and the transfer to that authority of the building and the Dixon Collection, and any other objects specially bequeathed to the Bethnal Green Museum. The remainder of the collection now in this branch museum at Bethnal Green would in that case be at the disposal of the Department for their general purposes in connection with museums. Meanwhile it must be remembered that at the Bethnal Green Museum there is now a valuable collection of the productions of modern art, that the National Portrait Gallery was there exhibited, that other collections, among them those of Sir Cuthbert Quilter, M.P., have been there shown, that there was last year a collection of furniture illustrating the trades of the district, and that this year there is a like exhibition illustrating the manufacture of shoes.

" (46.) Many will regret that these opportunities have not been more valued, and that these endeavours to improve the population by bringing among them the best productions of modern art and specimens illustrating their trades have not met with more recognition by the inhabitants.

" (47.) It must be remembered that a museum conducted at the public expense cannot be regarded as a place of mere amusement. While the Bethnal Green Museum continues to be a branch museum, as now, it will be desirable to make more frequent changes in some of the objects exhibited.

" (48.) A proposal has been made that a site be granted for a free library under the Libraries Acts or otherwise on the lands above described, part whereof is now occupied by the Bethnal Green Museum. Strong arguments may be brought forward in support of this suggestion, but it does not appear to be within the province of this Committee to make any recommendation on the subject.

#### " E.—FINANCE.

" (49.) The accounts are kept according to the same regulations as those which govern the accounts of other departments of the Civil Service, and are subject to the same audit and control. 457 A.  
D. 43.

" 50. The forms of these accounts are settled by the Treasury under the Exchequer and Audit Act, 1866. Any irregularity would be commented on by the Comptroller and Auditor General, and pointed out to the Public Accounts Committee, who would deal with it. Sir John Donnelly states that the Public Accounts Committee have not made any adverse comment during his tenure of office. D. 252 A.  
253.

" 51. The reports of the Museums as to purchases and the like relate to the calendar year, not to the financial year, to the conclusion of which the estimates and appropriation accounts. This method is adopted by the Trustees of the British Museum and National Gallery.

" 52. Until



" 52. Until the year 1884 the accounts of the Bethnal Green Museum was kept separate from those of South Kensington. A change was then made, it being thought that the complication and trouble arising from two sets of accounts did not produce compensating advantages. There does not appear to be any reason why some items at least (*e.g.* heating and lighting) should not be kept separate. The initiative of any change in these details rests with the Treasury.

#### " VII.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

" 53. Your Committee now proceed to make observations of a more general character respecting the South Kensington and Bethnal Green Museums, chiefly respecting the former.

" 54. (1.) The South Kensington Museum arose from small beginnings, and has grown, as so many of our institutions have grown, under the influence of external circumstances rather than by the guidance of a consistent policy determined beforehand.

" 55. (2.) The collection now at Kensington, including objects both of industrial and decorative art, was formed from purchases made by Parliamentary grants, from gifts by generous donors such as Mr. Sheepshanks, Mr. Jones, Messrs. Dyce and Foster, Mr. Ellis, and many others, and from loans such as those of Mr. Salting.

Skinner, A.

" 56. (3.) The growth of the Museum, together with increasing demands for circulation, require and must always require, modifications in administration to meet new conditions and new demands. Much has been done, and further changes are being made and intended to be made, which will greatly extend the usefulness of the Museum both as a central collection and as regards loans in the country. Greater care, for example, is taken to meet the wants of local schools and to illustrate stages of manufacture. The use of reproductions will enable the authorities largely to augment the number of objects sent on loan. The distribution of these and of photographs will still further increase the services rendered by the Museum.

" 57. (4.) It is not within the province of your Committee to enter into minute details of administration, but as illustrations your Committee would recommend a more prominent position for the stall for sale of photographs and catalogues at South Kensington and the addition of another on the higher storey, the larger use of explanatory notices, and, while retaining the present system of handbooks, the issue of catalogues at a cheaper rate, such as one penny.

" 58. (5.) The practice of stating on the labels the prices given for each object is misleading and conveys an inaccurate idea as to their real value. In the opinion of your Committee this practice ought, therefore, to be discontinued or accompanied by a statement that the figure is not to be regarded as an indication of value recognised at the present time.

" 59. (6.) These collections would be more highly appreciated and rendered of greater value to the community if explanatory lectures were given. Such lectures have been delivered at Dublin and in Jermyn Street, and with encouraging results.

" 60. (7.) In forming a judgment as to purchases, it must be remembered that there have been great changes of taste during the 40 years which have elapsed since the Museum was founded. There has also been a great extension of information, and the true value has been given to many objects respecting which little was formerly known. Mistakes have doubtless been made in this as in all other collections; but they have been unimportant compared with the magnitude of the collections. After withdrawing from circulation objects of no value, there remains such an increase in the value of other objects purchased that the loss arising from those errors becomes of small account.

" 60. (8.) The method of appointments and promotion of the staff has already been sufficiently described.

" Your Committee has considered the expediency of assigning a special section of work to each official on entrance on his duties, so that he may become an expert, as is the practice at the British Museum. In earlier days, before the Museum assumed its present dimensions, this arrangement was difficult if not impossible. But other conditions now exist, and your Committee learn with great satisfaction that this plan is now being adopted at South Kensington. Facilities of transfer to other work in the Museum will doubtless be afforded in case the official prove, on trial, more adapted to duties elsewhere in the Museum. Although special examination for the Library be not found practicable, it is important that when an advertisement of a vacancy is published there should be a statement for the information of candidates that the vacancy has arisen in the Library, and that the successful candidate will be there employed, if found to possess the necessary aptitude.

App. 16.

" 61. (9.) Questions have arisen as to the number of cases in which relationship exists at Bethnal Green and South Kensington between members of the Staff. It appears from a return presented to the Committee by the department, that of the superior staff (*i.e.* all above 2nd Division pay) there are seven such cases (of which three were the results of open competition) affecting 14 persons; of the subordinate staff, there are 49 cases, affecting 110 persons; and of the labouring staff there are 18 cases, affecting 36 persons. The total staff at South Kensington is 774.

" 62. Under these circumstances, there does not appear to be any foundation for the charge that there is favouritism. General Festing remarks that when he finds that a candidate of respectable character for a post is a relation of one already employed at the Museum, he regards that circumstance as one entitling the applicant to favourable consideration.

63. (10.) The



" 63. (10.) The number of breakages in the South Kensington Art Museum has been 170 up to the 30th April, 1897. The number of larcenies from 1859-1897 has been 12 only. In 1888 a fire did occur in a building belonging to the 1851 Commissioners and known as the French Annexe, but not under the control of the Department. Certain drawings were destroyed, but otherwise little injury was done to any objects. Any small outbreak of fire in the Museum has been easily extinguished. The above facts go far to prove that great care has been exercised in protecting the collections. Appendix.  
3718.  
3719.  
Festing.

" 64. (11.) The administration of the Museum and the exhibition of objects have been seriously hindered by want of space and the distribution of the collections among so many separate buildings, in some instances at a considerable distance from each other.

" 65. (12.) The Museum has rendered a most valuable service in improving taste among all classes, including both producers and purchasers. It has forwarded with efficiency and success the advance made of late years in Decorative as well as in Industrial Art, and thus fulfilled the intentions of those who originally founded it. Without such an institution art objects would not have been seen, or if seen would have been examined under circumstances far less favourable to study and the advancement of knowledge.

" 66. (13.) Your Committee desire to express their full appreciation of the intelligence, assiduity, and zeal of the officers who now form the staff at South Kensington and Bethnal Green. The like commendation is due to the staff at the Edinburgh and the Dublin Museums.

#### " VIII.—RECOMMENDATIONS.

" 67. Your Committee have made sundry suggestions in the preceding paragraphs, but it may be found convenient to place together some of their principal recommendations.

" 68. (1.) With a view to the efficient and economical management of the Museums in London, to say nothing of other educational advantages not within the order of reference, your Committee deem it of paramount importance that there be an Education Minister of Cabinet rank having a seat in the Legislature aided by a Parliamentary Secretary.

" 69. (2.) They recommend that the Secretary for the Science and Art Department, like the Secretary of the Education Department, have an office at Whitehall.

" 70. (3.) That there be advisers or visitors who would assist the Department by suggestions or information in matters affecting the Museums, but would not lessen the responsibility to Parliament of the Parliamentary Chiefs. Such a system exists in Dublin and works well. The Board of Admiralty and the Indian Council render valuable assistance to the Great Officers of State, but do not shelter them from responsibility.

" 71. (4.) That, with a view to facilitating communications between the Parliamentary Heads and the Principal Officers of the Museum, one at least of the former visit the Museum weekly or more frequently, and confer with such members of the Staff as the state of current business renders it desirable that he should consult on the management of the Museum.

" 72. (5.) That a wide discretion as to the duties of the Staff continue to be vested in the Parliamentary Heads and those immediately responsible to them, it being impossible to foresee what modifications of any given system may be called for by new circumstances. Your Committee desire, however, to state their opinion that (1) larger discretion as to purchases ought to rest with the Director of the Art Museum as well as with the Director of the Science Museum, and (2) that officers be as far as practicable assigned to different divisions in the Art Museum in order that they may become accomplished experts.

" 73. (6.) That the Director of the Science Museum should possess scientific attainments and that the Director of the Art Museum have like qualifications as regards Art.

" 74. (7.) That the Staff at the South Kensington Museum, being in point of numbers inadequate to the due discharge of the duties imposed upon it, ought to be increased.

" 75. (8.) That, having regard to the annually increasing demand made by Local Museums and Schools of Art on the South Kensington Collection for circulation, it is desirable that the Parliamentary Grant for Purchases be increased.

" 76. (10.) That admission to all the Museums be always free.

" 77. (11.) That in accordance with their First Report of the present year the Science Museum and Science Library, provision for science instruction and for loans for scientific objects to be placed on the west side of Exhibition Road exclusively, the Art Museum, the Art Library, provision for art teaching, and for loans of art objects being placed on the east side exclusively. The Royal College of Science may remain for a time, if the subjects taught be such as not to cause the discharge of gases injurious to art objects or danger of fire from inflammable and explosive substances. The scientific world have expressed their views in support of this arrangement of the buildings in a memorial presented to the Prime Minister by the Royal Society. The Department of Science and Art has not submitted to the Committee any evidence in an opposite sense, but members of their staff have given testimony in favour of the views expressed by your Committee.

" 78. (12.) That



“ 78. (12.) That in accordance with the same report the Geological Museum in Jermyn Street be not occupied as now, but that the collections there exhibited be removed to the west side of Exhibition Road as a Science Collection. Care should be taken that all the special characteristics of the Jermyn Street Museum be preserved, and that the Collection when removed serve the same purposes as at present, with the exception that the artistic pottery should be placed in the Art Museum. The relations between the Geological Survey and the Geological Museum are such that the offices of the former must necessarily be in close proximity to the Geological Museum.

“ 79. (13.) That provision be made for the residence of the principal officials in the immediate neighbourhood of the Museum within which they are employed.

"80. (14.) That negotiations be carried forward with a view to transferring to some Local Authority the site and structure of the Bethnal Green Museum, the Dixon Collection of Pictures, and any other objects specially dedicated by donors under their wills or otherwise. They are of opinion that meanwhile more changes in the objects exhibited might be made with advantage to the district.

DRAFT REPORT, proposed by Lord *Balcarres*, read the first time as follows :—

[illegible]

“(1.) WE cannot agree with the view expressed by the Secretary of the Department that there was no necessity for this Committee; neither do we concur in his opinion that it is not desirable to introduce any ‘modification in the organisation or administration’ of the museums. Indeed we consider that reforms of a far-reaching character are needed in almost every branch of the work dependent upon the five museums maintained by the Science and Art Department.

work dependent upon the five museums maintained by the Science and Art Department.

“In order to keep the various branches of our Report clear and distinct, we propose to deal separately with the science and art sides, and to deal subsequently with the subsidiary museums in Jermyn-street, Edinburgh, Dublin, and Bethnal Green.

"ART SIDE.—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

“(2.) Many of the reforms we advocate are rendered necessary by faulty and defective administration, though we readily admit that improvements have been made since the appointment of this Committee. There is an absence of definite rules which are imperative for the proper conduct of a museum; on the other hand there are regulations which have been allowed to fall into desuetude, while others which remain hamper the discretion of responsible officers. Rules should be either strictly enforced or frankly rescinded; in no case should they be ‘left in abeyance.’

"3. As

Clarke, I., 2984.  
Clarke, I., 3884.  
Clarke, I., 3729,  
020.



"(3.) As to the position of higher officials, about which we have had much evidence, we consider that,—

"The secretary should be merely accounting and corresponding officer. As Mr. Norman Macleod (assistant secretary of the Department) stated, 'the high officers at South Kensington are not necessarily acquainted with science and art beyond having a general acquaintance with the subject.' The secretary should have no control as regards the artistic merit of objects offered to the museum. The 'common-sense' system of purchase is eminently unsatisfactory, and the museum has already suffered from this system. The secretary should not have the responsibility of sanctioning bidding at auctions, a function which properly appertains to the expert; neither should the secretary or any other official be allowed to sell objects to the museum.

Q. 6467, Civil Service inquiry, 1875.

Donnelly, 999.

Donnelly, 994.

Donnelly, 991.

#### "THE DIRECTOR FOR ART.

"The work of this official is divided between the museum and the art education of the country. We consider it difficult for one official to combine the knowledge requisite for both these spheres of labour, and impossible for him to have enough time to occupy the dual position with success. At present the Director for Art is practically head of the Art Museum; no object of importance can be bought without his sanction; the purchases made by Dublin, Bethnal Green, and Edinburgh are subject to his control, and occasionally he has gone abroad on purchasing missions, the province of the Director or Keeper of the Museum. Moreover, he has charge of the large collection of water-colour drawings, and is responsible for the annual grant for additions to this section. We may add that the Director for Art was unable to inform the Committee whether the Raphael cartoons, the most valuable series of Italian paintings in the United Kingdom, were in his charge or in that of Mr. Clarke, Director of the Museum. The Director for Art also buys drawings out of the Art Library Vote, although the keeper of that library may protest that their acquisition would be useless to the students. These purchasing functions should be confined to the museum director and keeper, who possess the expert knowledge so necessary in view of the skilful forgery and sophistication of art objects. The Director for Art should be limited to supervising the art schools and classes. These are increasing annually, and if they are to be effectively guided by the Director for Art, it will be necessary to relieve this official of his extensive functions in connection with the four museums. His position in relation to the Director of the Art Museum should be assimilated to that of the Director for Science to the Director of the Science Museum. The Director for Science never interferes in purchasing for the science museum. His work is exclusively educational.

Appendix II., No. 5, Smith, 3322.

Armstrong 5244.

Weale 6072.

Festing, I., 2375.

#### "THE DIRECTOR OF THE ART MUSEUM.

"We have already indicated that this official should be the purchasing authority, not subject to control other than that of a financial and administrative character. He should be an expert in one or more classes of art; (we cannot accept the view that the 'Bottom has been completely knocked out of expertise'). Subordinate officers (as we shall suggest later on) should also be trained as experts. This director should have sole responsibility for purchase, subject to the recommendation of the Board of Visitors (see paragraph 22), having consulted the keeper of the section to which the proposed acquisition would belong.

Armstrong, I., 5697.

Clarke, I., 3897.

#### "‘SHUFFLING’ OFFICIALS.

"(4.) It is obvious that the museum has suffered from a lack of experts. The Secretary of the Department told the committee that unless the South Kensington staff be trebled or quadrupled, it is not possible to have specialists. With this opinion we entirely disagree. Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, the head official of the British Museum, pointed out that expertise is not necessarily gained by having a large staff, but that it can be, and at the British Museum is, gained by a careful selection of young men for the subordinate posts, and having selected them, limiting their work to a single department of art or archaeology. Thus in the coin and medal department, out of a total staff of five, two officials are experts of international repute, and the remainder are also considered experts. Similarly, in the large department of prints and drawings, the officials possess the highest expert knowledge. This is attributed by Sir Edward Maunde Thompson to the fact that young men are placed in a department and remain working there: they are not moved from one branch of work to another. At South Kensington this process of shuffling is frequent. An official cannot be 'moved from the Art Library to the Art Museum'; but he can be (and frequently is) moved from the custody of art objects to the custody of art books. We are strongly of opinion that this shuffling of officials is detrimental to the public service. Thus one junior assistant has served in Circulation, Art Library and India Museum—and, of course, has become an 'all round man.' Another passed from the accounts division into the India Museum, whence he was transferred to the Art Library. It is almost impossible for the 'all round man' to become an expert in archaeology, bibliography, or art. We must, however, add that Mr. Clarke has recently done his utmost to bring about this desirable reform by sub-dividing the museum into sections, in which it is proposed to specialise as much as possible. But this system is at present subject to rescission. It should receive official sanction, and be made a permanent feature of museum administration. We may add that Mr. Skinner, the keeper of the museum, concurs in Mr. Clarke's proposal.

Donnelly, I., 1313.

Thompson, I., 6452.

Thompson, I., 6458.

Donnelly, I., 973.

Donnelly, I., 975.

Donnelly, I., 1041.

Weale 7774.

Cf. 1311, 6102.

Weale, I., 7069.

II., 1568.

"(5.) These considerations lead us to the question of the admission of new officials, their examination, and the probationary system. At the British Museum examinations are held in the ordinary manner, but the trustees can add one or more special subjects in which the candidates are required to qualify; this is in order to ensure the competence of the new officers for the particular sections in which they will ultimately work. The results have been satisfactory. At South Kensington no such system prevails. The examination for a junior assistantship is identical for all candidates,

Maunde Thompson 6633.



Donnelly I., 63. candidates, whether their work will be to look after Saracenic art, to catalogue books, to describe furniture and textiles, or to superintend circulation of objects to provincial museums and schools. It is not surprising that South Kensington should be obliged to rely largely upon paid experts and referees to advise upon questions about which their own officials should be competent to give a skilled opinion. We observe that the principle of special examination is already conceded in one case, for the Jermyn Street Museum. This practice should be extended to South Kensington, Mr. Clarke's division of the museum into six sections having made its application possible. We must point out that the use of Clause 7 of the Order in Council of June 4th 1870 seems to have been abused. This clause says that a man who has acquired 'such qualifications in other pursuits' (*i.e.*, otherwise than in the Civil Service) may be appointed without examination. These qualifications are 'knowledge and ability deemed requisite for such situation.' We find that this clause has been used in order to appoint an official who has failed in a competitive examination. In August 1893 an open competition was held for the post of assistant museum keeper. Two candidates were appointed. The third candidate on the list of marks failed to qualify in one of the obligatory subjects. The fourth in order of merit, who also failed to secure one of the vacant posts, qualified in each obligatory subject, and although the aggregate of his marks was considerably lower than that of number three in order of merit, he was appointed to a post made vacant four months later, under Clause 7.

See Appendix,  
Vol. II., No. X.

"No marks whatever are awarded to candidates for those subjects in which they fail to qualify. In this particular examination the candidate next in order of marks to the successful candidates, obtained, in eight subjects out of ten, more marks than were gained by the candidate below him who was subsequently appointed under Clause 7. In one subject this unsuccessful candidate obtained six times as many marks as the gentleman who afterwards obtained the post, and moreover his aggregate of marks was higher than that of Mr. Lehfeldt who gained a post by examination proper. All the marks are printed in Appendix No. 10 Vol. I. It will be seen that the fourth candidate on the list (afterwards appointed under Clause 7), did not gain one-third of the maximum marks in written papers on art subjects, whereas he gained full marks in *viva voce* on art objects. It is obvious that the South Kensington system fails to secure the services of the most efficient men who present themselves for examination. We would suggest:

"(1) That no examination should be held unless there be a minimum number of candidates, this being the practice at the British Museum.

Courthope,  
II., 2228.

"(2) No member or paid official of the Science and Art Department should be employed as examiner. When asked whether such a condition had arisen, the First Civil Service Commissioner stated that the question was not one which it would be proper for him to answer.

Donnelly,  
I., 1077.  
Weale, I., 6069.  
Skinner,  
II., 1504.

Courthope,  
II., 2235.

Maunde Thompson,  
I., 6440.

"With regard to probationary reports made about officials after their first year's service, the Committee was informed by the secretary that a report on the qualifications of all new officials is regularly sent to the Civil Service Commissioners. Mr. Weale and Mr. Skinner never having made such reports, we enquired about the subject of Mr. Courthope. He told us that this regulation was abolished in 1871. We recommend its re-enactment. It is immaterial whether the report be sent to My Lords or to the Civil Service Commissioners; but the continuance of the official after the probationary period should be conditional upon this report being received, minuted by the keeper of the section in which the official works. At the British Museum one year was found insufficient and the probationary period is now two years.

#### "SUBORDINATE STAFF AND ATTENDANTS.

Appendix,  
Vol. I., No. 16.

"(6.) At South Kensington there is a total staff of 774 persons. The bulk of these are, of course, attendants, assistants, and members of the subordinate staff. It is most desirable that proper record should be kept of their appointment. The establishment list is printed in Appendix No. 17 (Vol. I), where it will be seen that no record can be quoted of the appointments of a considerable number of men made in 1891, 1893, 1895, and even in 1896. Such laxity should be avoided in the future; it has no doubt contributed to the charges of nepotism brought against the Science and Art Department. We observe that 160 persons are inter-related out of the staff of 774 persons; that is, nearly 20 per cent. (or 9½ per cent. if taken in groups, a misleading form of calculation). We have no evidence to show that this circumstance has affected the service harmfully, but it is evident that too much relationship in a single department should be discouraged.

"We think that the attendants employed in the Museum Galleries might, with advantage, wear a distinctive uniform, such as that worn by the attendants in the Dublin Museum. As regards police, their number will doubtless be reduced as soon as proper buildings are erected at South Kensington; but we cannot recommend any diminution of the force at present; in fact, it is doubtful whether the night patrol is adequate, especially in the western galleries. The Committee has received no evidence showing cause for maintaining the military garrison at South Kensington Museum. The site has no strategic value, and the detachment of Royal Engineers, efficient though it may be, is not necessary for the art and science service of the country. The sappers might be useful in case of fire, but there is no reason why the Metropolitan Fire Brigade should not have the responsibility here, as much as at the Home Office, the British Museum, or the Palace of Westminster. In fact it is a source of danger that the sappers should have nominal and primary charge of the buildings so far as fire precautions are concerned, since the fire brigade would be held responsible for dealing with any outbreak of a serious character. The argument for removing the barracks is strengthened by the decision of Her Majesty's Government that no residences shall be maintained within the Museum precincts. The sappers need not be in barracks until 11 p.m. They are allowed to bring in their friends: they have their own canteen and manage their



their own cooking arrangements; this does not conduce to immunity from the risk of fire; and as there is no communication between the Museum and the barracks (although the buildings are contiguous), it is quite possible that the force from the neighbouring fire station would, in the event of an outbreak, reach the western galleries more quickly than the Engineers. These sappers are now largely employed by the department as artisans. Quite apart from the propriety of sappers being thus employed—it is a question for the War Office rather than for this Committee—we are strongly of opinion that it is desirable to replace them by civilians. We do not offer any observations about the appointment of Royal Engineer officers for the higher posts in the Science and Art Department; such appointments are frequently made. At present the head officials of Dublin, South Kensington, and Edinburgh, are drawn from the service; several others preside over departments at South Kensington, and until recently a large number were employed as the examiners and inspectors.

“Having dealt with the subordinate staff, sappers, &c., we think it well to point out that the ‘Works Department’ of South Kensington seems to be organised upon a faulty basis. General Festing, R.E., Director of the Science Museum, besides the important functions connected with that post, is in charge of the heating, lighting, cleaning, plumbing, stoking, carpentering, case making, glazing, &c., &c. Structural alterations and repairs are carried out by Her Majesty’s Office of Works, by which upwards of 20,000*l.* is to be spent during 1898–99, though General Festing is occasionally obliged to employ bricklayers for repairing his furnaces and boilers. It appears to us that a clerk of the works should be responsible for these operations. There can be no doubt that a large part of General Festing’s time is occupied with the control of these artisans and the direction of their labours. Without suggesting that this work is derogatory to the high position held by General Festing, we feel bound to say that the maintenance and development of the Science Museum requires the undivided attention of its director; and this director could be relieved of the heavy burden now placed upon him by appointing a skilled clerk of works at 3*l.* or 4*l.* a week. In the event of our suggestion proving unacceptable to the Treasury, we may point out that the alternative system, now in vogue at the British Museum, would be almost as effective. None of the cases, for instance, are made at the museum, an economy of space, supervision, and in all probability of cost. Before leaving this question we would add that the system of keeping monthly and weekly diaries, which has now ‘fallen into misuse,’ should be re-established. This would be of especial benefit in the works division of South Kensington and other branches in which there are a number of temporary employés.

#### “ESTIMATES.

“(7.) We are convinced that the whole system of presenting the Museum Estimates requires immediate examination. We understand that the Treasury is solely responsible for the existing practice. In the first place there should be a clear distinction between the estimate for the museums and the estimate for the Department proper. Should the secretarial offices be removed to Whitehall, this change will be readily accomplished; but in any case, intimate though the connection between the two services may be, their respective cost should undoubtedly be marked with greater precision. It is now quite impossible to separate the cost of the Museum from that of the Department. Until recently the Museum Vote was divided into a number of sub-heads, showing the various sums allotted to the different purchase branches of the museum, *e.g.*, library, pictures, reproductions, art museum, &c. This method has now been abandoned in favour of the ‘grant in aid’ system, which is the necessary outcome of a concession made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that unexpended balances need not be surrendered at the end of the financial year. The separate items are now suppressed, a single sum covering all the purchase votes. There is some obscurity as to the need of this concession in view of the fact that during the last ten years (that is prior to its introduction), South Kensington, so far from surrendering unspent money, was able to spend more than 900*l.* in excess of its purchase grant: thus the Museum did not suffer by the old system, and in point of fact, the ‘grant in aid’ system by which the separate items were merged was not considered necessary to justify the transference of money from one sub-head to another. On the other hand, the new system makes it impossible to tell from the estimate how much is voted for the picture gallery, for the library, or for the art museum; for no specific sum is allotted to any particular service. The allocation is presumably vested in my Lords and the secretary, and it is for them to determine how much or how little shall be assigned to the different branches of the Museum. Formerly the secretary used to consult the keepers through the director as to the financial needs of their departments, though Mr. Weale, Keeper of the Art Library, denied that he had ever been consulted. In future we imagine that it will be superfluous to consult the keepers if no stated sum will be allotted to meet their requirements.

“It is regard to the H votes that the estimates are most confusing and most confused. These votes deal with the lower staff, the police, materials, heating, lighting, &c. In the first place, no statement is given as to the numbers employed: H<sup>3</sup>, for instance, has about 26,000*l.* for ‘attendants, messengers, repairers, labellers, printers, store assistants, cleaners, &c.’ No detail is given except that the 26,000*l.* is nominally sub-divided for the administration, South Kensington, the two colleges, stores, and Bethnal Green. We say nominally sub-divided because the fact that Bethnal Green has 985*l.* allotted to it does not necessarily mean that this sum, or anything approaching it, is spent there. So long as the Auditor and Controller General is satisfied that the aggregate of the items composing H<sup>3</sup> has not been exceeded, he does not inquire into the expenditure of the component items. That is to say, he does not know whether the 985*l.* voted for Bethnal Green has been spent there, since the Department is at liberty to transfer this sum to any other branch of H<sup>3</sup>, provided that the total of 26,000*l.* be not exceeded. This method applies to all the H votes, and they are all subject to the same criticism. Moreover, these votes overlap; H<sup>6</sup> is for ‘artisans, cleaners, labourers, &c.’ This overlaps with H<sup>3</sup>, to which we have just alluded, and in so far as the wages

Festing 2440.

Festing 2495.

Festing, I., 2179, &amp;c.

Maunde Thompson, I., 6302.

Clarke, I., 3617.

Donnelly, I., 1162.

Donnelly, I., 880.

Festing, I., 2304.

Donnelly, I., 885.

Appendix I., No. 3.

Donnelly, I., 887.

Gorst, I., 5312.

Donnelly, I., 893.

Donnelly, I., 894.

Weale, I., 6055.

Spring Rice, II., 2290, &amp;c.

Donnelly, II., 454, &amp;c.



Lobb, II., 2440.

Spring Rice,  
II., 2266.

Clarke.

Donnelly,  
II., 208.Spring Rice,  
II., 2276.Donnelly,  
II., 469.

wages under H<sup>6</sup> are for 'heating, lighting, and precautions against fire,' there is a further overlapping with H<sup>7</sup>, under which a sum of 9,655*l.* is provided for 'heating, lighting, and precautions against fire.' Under H<sup>5</sup> 5,600*l.* is voted for 'furniture, materials, &c., and fitting up objects for exhibition.' The great bulk of this is for materials such as wood, locks, hinges, glass, &c., for the show cases; the expense of making them up is met by the artisan vote under H<sup>6</sup>. It appears to some Members of the Committee and to one of our witnesses that the allocation of the component sums is not adhered to in the manner intended by Parliament and contemplated by the Treasury. During the last ten years Bethnal Green Museum has had 6,800*l.* voted for its 'furniture, materials, &c., and fitting up objects for exhibition.' An undetermined sum has also been voted for the carpenters employed in utilising this material. We are at a loss to explain this enormous sum in view of the smallness of Bethnal Green Museum and the absence of large or expensive cases in it. The Appropriation Account does not deal with the items composing H<sup>5</sup>, and we therefore suggest a stringent inquiry into the practice, especially in view of the fact that notwithstanding the liberal sums voted by Parliament, Bethnal Green has been obliged to borrow show cases from South Kensington. The items composing the H votes appear to be a guide to Parliament when discussing the Estimates, but not being mandatory upon the Department (and as we conclude, being frequently disregarded), they are misleading, and to that extent mischievous. The H votes are nine in number; they are distinct entities and are only audited in bulk, no attention being paid to their constituent items. These votes amount in round figures to the following sums: 2,700*l.*, 11,000*l.*, 26,000*l.*, 11,900*l.*, 5,600*l.*, 15,800*l.*, 9,600*l.*, 6,600*l.*, 3,900*l.*; we have already pointed out the lack of detail. On turning to the British Museum estimates, a service analogous in many ways to South Kensington, we find everything stated with precision and clearness. There is no reduplication of votes; they are concentrated, not scattered over a number of sub-heads, and the various services are kept distinct. But their most valuable feature is the fact that the Estimate shows at a glance the number of the higher and lower staff, and the salary or wages paid to every individual employed. The secretary of the Science and Art Department is satisfied with the existing practice, though we gathered that the Treasury is prepared to give our suggestions a careful consideration. We do not ask that South Kensington finance should be subjected to vexatious and excessive detail. The British Museum plan is quite adequate to ensure accurate and specific information for Parliament. If possible, it would be well to make the annual report of the Department correspond more closely with the Estimates; that is to say, that the sums voted in the Estimates should be accounted for specifically in the annual report, although there is a necessary divergence between them in point of date, one extending over the calendar the other over the financial year. We may illustrate our meaning by giving an example: Between 1st January 1892 and 31st December 1896, five years, the Department spent 8,256*l.* upon 'water colour and other drawings, &c.' (see tabular appendix in the annual reports). During the five years between 31st March 1892 and 31st March 1897, 4,600*l.* was voted in the Estimates for 'historical collection of oil and water colours.' It will be observed that the periods are not exactly the same, there being three months difference; but this cannot account for the variance between 4,600*l.* voted and 8,256*l.* spent. The explanation given is scarcely adequate, unless the word '&c.' appended to 'water colours and other drawings' be considered a sufficient explanation for an expenditure exceeding receipts by nearly 50 per cent., a separate vote being already taken for reproduction (F. 3 in old estimates). We lay great stress upon the urgent need for reforming the manner in which estimates are presented to Parliament and audited by the Controller General.

#### " BOARD MEETINGS.

Spencer,  
I., 5002.  
Donnelly,  
I., 2004, &c.Donnelly,  
I., 2031.  
Gorst, II., 726.

" (8). A reform of the system of board meetings is still more imperative. It used to be the custom to hold these meetings fortnightly or weekly. They were attended by either the Lord President or the Vice-President of the Council, and by six or seven of the high officials of the Department. Educational questions were predominant, and the Museum question was proportionately small. These Board meetings have been discontinued during the last three years. It is probably impossible for the Parliamentary chiefs of the Department to find time to attend Board meetings when occupied with important legislation; but we consider something of the kind to be none the less wanted, and later on in our report we shall suggest the appointment of a Board of Visitors who will be able to advise the Lord President on administrative and artistic questions, without, of course, being vested with any executive privileges.

#### " ART MUSEUM.

Clarke, I.  
Clarke, I., 3508.Carlisle, I., 8008.  
Appendix, I.,  
No. 9.  
Clarke, I., 3633.

" (9). Having dealt with administration in general, we propose to touch upon the all-important question of the Art Museum. We have already expressed our opinion that the keepers, assistant keepers, and juniors should remain in single sections of the Museum and not be transferred from branch to branch. This has been largely accomplished, and one man will no longer have to 'attend to everything.' This will produce continuity and expert knowledge. It will also make the employment of referees and extraneous experts unnecessary. These gentlemen will be replaced by the visitors whose appointment we shall suggest. We do not necessarily mean that the old referees will be succeeded by men of wider attainments—for it would be well for some of the referees to become members of the Board of Visitors—but we mean that Mr. Clarke's system of sub-dividing the Museum, the first outcome of which will be the training of official experts, will supersede the need of employing outside amateurs to do some of the most critical work of the Department. However, it has been found possible to dispense largely with the service of these gentlemen; they have only met once during the last five years. These gentlemen are paid for their advice. For the last occasion on which they met in 1897 they received four guineas apiece. As there are about a dozen of these gentlemen their fees, amounting to 50*l.*, for a single attendance, would



would add materially to the cost of the objects upon which they would have to adjudicate. We do not think it right that these gentlemen, many of whom occupy high positions, should be paid for services which elsewhere are rendered gratuitously; moreover, the gentlemen who act upon the analogous Committee which deals with the Science Museum are unpaid. We therefore think that the Art referees should not be continued. In any case the whole Committee should not be summoned at once, for those gentlemen who are on the Committee for their knowledge of textiles or furniture are not necessarily capable of estimating the value of ceramics or metal work. No official of the Science and Art Department, whether permanent or occasional, should be employed as a referee. The museum has also to trust a good deal to the advice of dealers and brokers. For the disastrous purchases at the Hamilton sale a dealer was largely responsible. This again will become unnecessary when the scheme for developing expertise within the Department has had time to take effect. Before leaving this subject we desire to point out the careless manner in which these experts are appointed. An expert was called in to pronounce upon a water-colour drawing of such importance, that besides spending the whole annual grant of 700*l.* upon it, 100*l.* had to be added from another vote. Mr. Armstrong, the Director for Art, who is in charge of the paintings, was unable to tell the Committee who this expert was.

Judd, II., 984.

Clarke, I., 3632.

Donnelly, II., 49.

Armstrong,  
I., 5755.

"10. We now wish to offer some criticism upon the class of objects in the museum, forgeries, and trash. The museum is, of course, crowded with objects of incalculable beauty and value; their value would be enormously enhanced by a judicious elimination of the worthless things. There are some acknowledged forgeries in the museum:

"(a.) Cardinal Wolsey's chair, bought at the Hamilton Palace sale. This is now admitted to be Cingalese work of the 18th century. Clarke, I., 3763.

"(b.) A Vernis-Martin cabinet; its panels are genuine, but as the thing was made up by an official now actually employed in the museum, the sum of 816*l.* paid for it must be considered excessive.

Clarke, I., 3778.

"(c.) A number of forged Della Robbia pieces. These have been sent to Bethnal Green (the *Refugium peccatorum*), and are now labelled 'imitations.'

Clarke, I., 3748.

"(d.) The Molinari gateway. 600*l.* was paid for this large stone gateway, having been previously refused at 300*l.* Sir Charles Robinson considers that three-quarters of it are spurious, and he read to the Committee a statement to that effect written by one Pietro Faitini, the man who 'made up' the gateway. Mr. Armstrong demurs to this view, although he considers the medallions 'bad': he is prepared to mark those parts which are notoriously spurious: we consider the proposal a wise one.

Robinson,  
I., 7551.Armstrong,  
II., 64.

"(e.) Dr. Middleton drew up a list of 50 objects which had been removed. They are either forgeries, 'quasi forgeries,' or worthless things. These have been suppressed.

Appendix, I.,  
No. 1.

"(f.) Sir Charles Robinson states, that the Agate Cup, bought at the Hamilton Palace Sale for 535*l.*, is a modern 'make up,' and not worth more than 50*l.* It would be well to test the value of this object by consulting Mr. Read, Mr. Davis, or some other acknowledged authority.

Robinson,  
I., 7552.

"We pass to the objects for which obviously excessive prices have been paid. Sir Charles Robinson informed the Committee that the Oviform Vase bought at the Hamilton Sale for the sum of 71*l.* 8*s.* was not only an excessive price, but that the object was superfluous, as the Museum already possessed two identical vases for which 7*l.* and 2*l.* 10*s.* had been paid respectively. The grossest case is that of the Silver Clock which was 'bought in' at an auction for 345*l.*, and for which the Museum paid 1,200*l.* a year later. It is true that this happened in 1869. But since that time the pernicious system has continued under which similar blunders were committed: caused by the absence of experts in the Museum, and the consequent dependence upon extraneous advice. In this case Sir Digby Wyatt, the eminent architect, was called in as an expert. Here again we recur to Mr. Clarke's sub-division of the Museum as the best and only guarantee against errors of this description.

Robinson,  
I., 7554.Clarke,  
I., 3684, &c.

"There are many undesirable objects to which we must call attention. The bulk of these have found their way to Bethnal Green, and would do justice to the department described by Mr. Purdon Clarke as the 'Chamber of Horrors.' Most of these things form the modern collection. There is a huge pottery wine cooler, a white vase seven feet high, 'hideous black Venetian figures' which might be removed 'without any very great loss to the neighbourhood.' The large model of the vineyard is worthless, especially in East London. The forged terra-cotta has already been referred to; and we understand that the Department no longer pays large prices for indifferent reproductions (not casts but reduced versions) of art objects. All these things are well exhibited at Bethnal Green. We cannot understand why valuable space is wasted upon the things while South Kensington itself is so congested; these objects are considered to have 'no teaching value,' while from the art point of view they are 'too bad' to be sent on circulation; though we would point out that the system of 'deposit loan' affords the means of disposing rubbish among provincial towns. Preston for instance, and Edinburgh receive loans of this deplorable type. We think that notwithstanding the pecuniary loss, it would be well to destroy a selection of these cumbrous objects; such a course has already been taken by the Museum (see *infra*, section 19). We however notice, in the valuable evidence given by the Director of the Birmingham Gallery, that these objects, though artistically worthless, may be of use when exhibited as bad specimens, as warnings to students and craftsmen. At any rate they should not be preserved and described as at present, in a manner which conveys the impression that they are of technical or artistic value.

Clarke, I., 4221.

Clarke, I., 3851.  
Blow, II., 2622

Clarke, I., 3840.

Clarke, I., 3827.

Wallis, I., 1401.

"South Kensington also possesses a number of examples which are unnecessary, though not therefore spurious or depraved. Mr. Weale handed in a paper illustrating the duplication of engravings. There are large numbers of duplicates (bought because those already in the library

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were



Weale,  
L. 6570, &c.  
I., 6842.

Carlisle, I., 5298.

Clarke, I., 3659.

Cf. Donnelly,  
I., 1210.

Weale, I., 6845.

Clarke, I. 3647.

Donnelly,  
II., 176.  
Clarke, I., 3195.  
4252.  
Donnelly, I., 576.

Wallis, II.,  
1331, &c.

Donnelly,  
II., 187.

Appendix,  
Is. No. 23.  
Donnelly,  
I., 8433.

Donnelly,  
I., 8377.  
Donnelly,  
II., 150.  
Donnelly,  
I., 3894.  
Donnelly,  
I., 8114.  
Donnelly,  
II., 153.

Armstrong,  
I., 5597, 5280.

Armstrong,  
I., 5585.

Cf. Form 1236.

were uncatalogued), and in some cases there are three, four, and even five copies of the same print. Many of these are forgeries, but on the other hand many are genuine. These should be disposed of as gifts to minor art schools, provincial libraries, &c. As for the spurious examples, and prints which are nothing more than snippings from modern illustrated papers, they might be destroyed according to precedent, or else they should be suppressed. The South Kensington authorities have recently taken a wise step in transferring to other public institutions objects which do not properly come within their own sphere. Thus the National Gallery has received several important Italian paintings by Perugino and the younger Bellini. They still belong to the Science and Art Department, but nobody could question the propriety of this transfer. So also the British Museum has taken over the custody of the collection of coins formerly shown at South Kensington. We are aware that the inter-relation of our public museums and galleries involves issues of controversy as well as of importance. Our reference does not permit us to enter upon a discussion of this subject. We may, however, be allowed to indicate that the question is well worthy of detailed consideration, by suggesting (a) the relations of Kew and Jermyn Street Museum respectively to the Natural History Museum; (b) of South Kensington to the British Museum; (c) of the three metropolitan picture galleries to the Chantry Bequest and South Kensington; (d) of the Public Record Office to the archive departments of various Government offices; (e) and lastly, the general relation of our national collections to those maintained by municipal bodies. To return to the South Kensington Collections, we would recommend the transfer of some of the water-colour drawings to the National Gallery of British Art at Millbank. The Art Library at South Kensington has a large collection of 'National Portraits,' engravings, prints, and so forth. These would be more appropriate to the National Portrait Gallery, whither they should be transferred. Mr. Weale pointed out there would be no objection to this transfer provided that those engravings which were suitable to an art library as illustrating costume, lace, armour, or styles of engraving, were retained at South Kensington. The others being of purely historical interest should be handed over to the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery. Before concluding this branch of our inquiry we desire to point out that although South Kensington has succeeded in avoiding competition with the British Museum in the purchase of classical objects of antiquity, there may be some danger that the collection of casts from Greek and Roman statuary may receive too large a share of exhibition space. At present they fill a large gallery, while there is a further collection at the Museum to which the public cannot be admitted. These casts are somewhat outside the proper scope of the Museum; without reflecting upon their value we must observe that they would be more appropriate to the Royal College of Art and provincial art schools; being fragile they could not be freely circulated, but the principle of 'deposit loan' might with advantage be liberally applied to the collection.

"(11). It appears that on several occasions loans have been refused to South Kensington because they are only accepted at the exhibitor's risk. There used to be a small vote in the Estimates for hire of specimens, but it is now merged in the grant in aid. Were this vote somewhat increased money might be found for insurance, due care being, of course, taken that the insurance should not be made the vehicle for advertisement of the objects. The Secretary was not aware of the recent cases quoted by Mr. Clarke in which the Museum had been obliged to decline loans owing to this absence of insurance. Correspondence on such questions as these should go through the secretarial department. The converse case, in which provincial museums receive loans from South Kensington, is not quite analogous, because these museums guarantee the safe returns of the objects, but in no case may they be handled. Mr. Wallis pointed out that where these museums are equipped with a strictly professional staff (as at Birmingham, Nottingham, &c.) permission might be given to handle certain objects sent down from South Kensington. This would be especially useful in the art schools where the objects are seldom of much intrinsic worth, but where the handling would promote technical instruction in the matter of surface, texture, glaze, quality, &c., of the objects. Mr. Wallis said that he would have no objection to giving a guarantee for the safety of these loans. In those instances where the South Kensington officials break objects lent to their Museum, we are strongly of opinion that compensation should be paid. During the last few months a jade cup belonging to an honourable Member of your House has been broken; and a picture has been 'ripped' through carelessness. We have had a return of 170 breakages in the Museum and circulation. This return is incomplete, as it does not record breakages anterior to 1863 in the Museum, or before 1877 in circulation; neither is any notice taken of the deplorable losses caused by the fire in 1885, which destroyed 175 large drawings and other objects.

"(12.) As to the preservation of documents, correspondence, &c., the Committee finds that papers dealing with objects in the Museum or offered to the Museum have been destroyed or mislaid. Thus, it was impossible to produce the adverse report on the Molinari Gateway ultimately bought for South Kensington. Other papers of an administrative character which would have helped the Committee to come to a final decision upon certain intricate questions are also missing. All documents and reports dealing with works of art refused as well as purchased by the Museum should be preserved; while no documents except those of a purely formal character should be destroyed without reference to the Public Record Office.

"(13.) The control of the collection of pictures is unsatisfactory. The Director for Science has charge of one series. The Director of the Museum has exclusive control of others. We have already noted the absence of proper regulations about the custody of the Raphael Cartoons; and we may add that although the gallery in which they are shown was expressly remodelled for them, owing to some strange oversight the doors are too small to permit the removal of the cartoons until they have been unframed and rolled up. At the National Gallery large pictures are moved through trap-doors in the floor, and at Hampton Court the Mantegna Cartoons are mounted upon wheels and can be quickly rolled out of the building in case of fire. The responsibility for the paintings at South Kensington should be specified, and dual responsibility should be discontinued. This is especially



especially needed in the matter of the famous cartoons which have been graciously lent to the Museum by Her Majesty. As to the need for the blue and yellow glass which has replaced the ordinary plain glass in the roof, matters of scientific debate are involved. The object of this costly arrangement, which lowers the tone of the colours and appears to fill the gallery with fog, is to intercept destructive rays of light; opinion, however, is divided, some persons arguing that while the system may protect certain colours it is harmful to others. Mr. Armstrong would very much prefer a white light. We do not recommend that this class of roof should be extended.

"The question of classification of objects is of great importance. At present there is practically none: Ceramics, for example, are to be found in half-a-dozen different places. We offer no opinion as to the three optional systems—classification by date, by country, and by material. When the new buildings approach completion the Department will have to decide which system shall be adopted.

## CIRCULATION.

"(14.) There are few, if any, more important sections of the South Kensington work. Under this system objects of art are sent on loan to schools, museums, and galleries throughout the country. It is largely from a development of the Circulation Department that enhanced usefulness of the Museum must be expected. In spite of the increased care which has latterly been given to this subject, there is still a wide scope for improvement, both as to the nature of the loans and the institutions which receive them.

"With regard to sending objects to museums, it is quite clear that the unique and priceless treasures at South Kensington should not be sent on circulation. This has not been done since the Soltikoff reliquary was sent to Birmingham many years ago. The selection of objects sent from South Kensington Museum should be made with the utmost care; local wishes should be consulted, the special industrial and artistic requirements of a district being met as far as possible. The views of manufacturers and the needs of the artizan class should be consulted; but at the same time it must be understood that the Keeper of the Circulation Department should exercise his judgment and discretion. He must not allow bad things to be sent even when the local authorities make an evil choice. The tendency of these local bodies in the smaller centres is to ask for a 'little of everything,' a collection which will be attractive, and 'bring in the shillings and sixpences.' In such cases the keeper of the circulation division should not hesitate to use his influence on behalf of a judicious selection of examples; they should be suited to the local needs, and the loan should embrace a certain proportion of exhibits of a kindred nature to those previously sent; continuity is needed in the Circulation Department as much as sequence is needed in the Central Museum. The local curator is frequently a man without artistic experience and education; he is sometimes too fully occupied to give proper attention to the circulation branch of his work. Such gentlemen would derive much advantage from a competent adviser at South Kensington. We have no reason to doubt that, speaking generally, provincial museums and schools are satisfied with the Circulation Department. An appendix gives a series of extracts (some dating back to 1889) expressing satisfaction with loans made by South Kensington. These letters and resolutions from Nottingham, Chester, Hanley, and many other towns, were perfectly spontaneous; but we do not attach undue importance to them in view of Mr. Wallis' statement that the Birmingham resolution appears 'practically annually,' and that it must not be taken as expressing complete approval. Moreover, we would point out, with much respect, that local approbation does not necessarily connote the educational value of the exhibits, particularly in those towns where the curator is 'only too thankful to take anything that is sent down.' The Keeper of the Circulation Department should not consider popularity as the first objective of the loans.

"Immense progress has recently been achieved in this Department. A classified catalogue of the art books in this section is now being made. Steps are being taken to utilise the extensive series of magic lantern slides. These will be sent about the country for the assistance of lecturers, and if the admirable suggestions made by Mr. Purdon Clarke can be carried into effect the whole service will be improved. Mr. Clarke's plan is to combine lectures with exhibits, special attention being devoted to casts and facsimiles which would be sent together with original objects. These reproductions are made with such skill that it is almost impossible to distinguish them from their originals; intrinsically valueless, they are of equal benefit to the student and craftsman. These casts can also be coloured and waxed in a manner to make them appear identical with the genuine article. A prejudice exists against copies, but a good facsimile of a first-class object is of greater value than a second-rate original. These casts will be chiefly serviceable for art schools. As to lectures, Colonel Plunkett has already organised a successful series in Dublin Museum; similar lectures and demonstrations seem to be highly appreciated in the Midlands. We need scarcely observe that nothing is more likely to stimulate interest than lectures illustrated by lantern slides or the objects themselves. Another improvement contemplated by Mr. Clarke is that cheap illustrated catalogues should be issued with the more important loan collections. In Birmingham 27,000 copies of a penny catalogue, drawn up by the local authority, were sold in three months. A further reform has already been inaugurated in connection with art schools, namely, allowing them to have loans of artistic merit and value; hitherto they have only received examples of comparatively small worth. Permission should be granted to the art master to handle and display such objects if the governing body will give a guarantee for their safe return; this privilege should be granted solely to schools of high standing. Elementary and lower secondary schools might advantageously receive on permanent loan the works performed by students for the third-rate certificate. Those training colleges for teachers where instruction in drawing is given might also receive small and not costly duplicates, electrotypes, &c. Polytechnics are also anxious to borrow from the Department. In extending the range of circulation special care should be given to the

Armstrong,  
I., 5255.

Cundall, I., 5923.

Clarke, I., 3125.

Wallis, II., 1256.

Wallis, II., 1349,  
1288.

Wallis, II., 1256.

Appendix,  
I., No. 7.Donnelly,  
I., 655, &c.

Wallis, II., 1268.

Wallis, II., 1340.

Weale, I., 6898.

Appendix,  
I., No. 45.

Wallis, II., 1251.

Clarke, I., 3058.

Clarke, I., 3058.

Plunkett, I.,  
I., 4774.

Wallis, II., 1323.

Appendix I.,  
No. 45.

Wallis, II., 1327.

Cundall, I., 6014.

Blow, II., 2569.

Cundall, I., 6018.

Clarke, I., 4024.

needs



needs of Irish provincial towns. Lace-making, weaving, carving, and other crafts are being encouraged by the Irish Industries Association; it is important that the work should be based upon suitable pattern and design.

Sparkes,  
II., 1424.

Clarke, I., 2973.  
Cundall, I., 6005.

Donnelly,  
I., 1230.  
Wallis, I., 1259.

"Meanwhile administrative reforms have been carried out. The old system, lately superseded, is worth quoting. If the Principal of the Royal College of Art wanted an object for his students, having made his selection, his Registrar sent the requisition to the Museum Registry. This Registry sent it to the Assistant Director for Art, who sent it to the Keeper of the Museum, who sent it to Circulation, who sent it to the Art Director; the Director of the Art Museum then sent it back to Circulation, Circulation sent the object to the Stores, and the Stores sent it to the College of Art. The process took a week, although the College is within the Museum precincts. We now anticipate a large increase in applications for loans. The officials of the Department seem to think that they will soon find it difficult to meet the demands made upon them. It will probably be found necessary to make circulation quite distinct from the Museum, giving it a special vote in the Estimates, and an expert keeper not subject to removal from one section of the Museum to another. All available duplicates should be given into his charge, and such pictures in the Sheepshanks Collection which can be properly circulated; and it is quite possible that it will be found advisable to appoint an inspector to lecture and supervise the provincial work. This development, though expensive, would be most remunerative and could be defrayed out of unnecessary sums voted for other Museum purposes. A more careful selection of exhibitions to which loans are sent would also tend to economy. During 1895 (Annual Report, Appendix D), thirteen towns received loans for less than a week. Peterborough, for instance, received 400 objects; the exhibition was only open for four days, and was only visited by 713 persons. During the same year, towns such as Rochdale, Swansea, Plymouth, Bristol, Burnley, and Newcastle received no loans so far as museums are concerned.

Clarke, I., 4094.  
Blow, II., 2534.

"(15.) The initiative should come from the Department; where municipalities seem apathetic the Department should point out the facilities for securing loans. Without forcing objects upon them it should be easy to persuade towns of great status and wealth to take their share in the useful work of circulation. Thus we look forward to an increase in the work and usefulness of the Museum. The press should be more widely used as a means of conveying information to the public; advertising, though specially provided for in the Estimates, is inadequately employed. Lectures, and a proper classification of the Museum, now a wilderness, owing chiefly to the character of the buildings, will also promote the best interests of the Department. Again, the Museum will be popularised by a proper system of cataloguing and labelling the objects. We have heard a good deal of evidence on this matter which we must treat in some detail.

Donnelly,  
II., 451.

"The tendency in the past has been to have expensive catalogues, such as Maskell, the Universal, &c. These may be valuable to students at home and abroad, but they are naturally of no use whatever to the man who wants a cheap handy reference book which will enable him to find the objects he is in search of. The existing practice is to publish 'hand-books.' These are often admirable little works but cannot, of course, be considered Museum catalogues. They are published 'with the sanction of the Department,' but we learn that, like the South Kensington portfolios, they are a private venture, and do not belong to the Museum. So, too, the red sixpenny guide is private property, belonging to the heirs of an official actually employed by the Department. The Museum does not appear to have any catalogue or guide of its own, except a small fly-sheet issued last year, which is distributed gratis. We hold that the Department should have undivided control of these publications, and that these commercial undertakings should be withdrawn. At the same time we feel that until the objects in the Museum are accurately labelled, all energy should be concentrated upon this work, the primary requirement; general catalogues and hand-books could then be drawn up, and the Museum inventory should be made available for reference to *bona fide* students. Later on the Museum will be able to issue cheap catalogues of special sections, ironwork, for instance, or enamels, based upon the valuable monographs already made in the Art Library by Mr. Weale. Uncompleted catalogues, such as that about book-bindings, on which considerable sums have already been spent, should be finished forthwith. The Piot Catalogue has been in manuscript for some years, and 'being of a nature to make it worth while to print it as it stands,' the work might be completed. The catalogue of engraved national portraits should be withdrawn pending careful revision. Special catalogues should be issued without delay. The catalogue of the furniture exhibition at Bethnal Green was not published for more than two months after the exhibition closed. There is a special provision for work connected with cataloguing. H<sup>9</sup> provides 600*l.* for advertising and distribution of catalogues. E<sup>3</sup> provided 200*l.* for occasional professional assistance, and F<sup>3</sup> provided 750*l.* Moreover we may point out that one of the keepers is general editor of Museum publications. He is also attached to the Dyce and Forster Library. For his work as editor this gentleman receives 475*l.* a year: besides editing he assists in revising proofs. This being the case it is quite unnecessary for the Department to pay two guineas a day to outsiders for revising their own proof sheets. It seems to us that the proportion of money spent upon editing is unreasonably large when compared with the amount paid to those who do the actual work of cataloguing. The work ought, therefore, to be well done as large sums are provided. The bulk of this work is done by outsiders; such persons should be paid by the 'sheet,' in no case by the day. When the Museum is properly organised into sections the officials will be expert enough to do their own cataloguing. This will be a great saving of money. The catalogue of National engraved portraits, made by an outsider, cost something between 620*l.* and 880*l.*—representing from 300 to 420 days' work. This sum would have secured the services of an extra assistant museum keeper for five or six years, and he would have done this particular catalogue in 18 months at the most.

Weale, I., 6920.  
Appendix,  
I., No. 41.

Donnelly,  
II., 714.

Clarke, I., 4178.

Donnelly,  
I., 8353.

Appendix,  
I., No. 24.

Appendix, I., 41.  
Weale, I., 6749.

Donnelly,  
I., 1316.

"Valuable as good catalogues are we doubt whether they are so important as good descriptive labels placed beside every object. This system is excellent, but, of course, it is only valid within the



the Museum itself, and it should be supplemented by reference catalogues for those who wish to work away from the Museum. These labels should be drawn up with the utmost regard for accuracy. Many of those now attached to the objects are 'very inaccurate.' Each object should be labelled separately. It is useless to describe objects in the manner suggested by this label:—'One of 94 pieces of Gothic architectural design, chiefly of oak, consisting of panels, friezes, pilasters, &c., English, Flemish, &c., 15th and 16th centuries, average dimensions 20 inches by 12.' While such collective labels are mischievous and laughable, a short printed description giving a general sketch or history of the objects contained in a case may be very instructive. These explanatory documents are much appreciated at the Natural History Museum and at Birmingham. The labels should indicate which part of any object is not altogether genuine, and following the practice of the authorities of the Louvre. The Molinari gateway, which is admitted to be a sophistication, is labelled: 'A gateway said to have been brought from Ghedi to Brescia'; conveying a doubt, not upon its authenticity, but upon its 'provenance.' This is to be rectified. In those cases where objects have been bought for their beauty, the labels should be as precise and searching as if the object had been bought for its authenticity as well.

"Opinion is much divided as to printing upon the labels the prices paid for objects. The British Museum and the National Gallery do not price their labels, though the sums they pay can always be found in their annual reports. We hold, however, that if this system (useful to the collector and student) be maintained, all objects should be priced. At present the pictures are not priced; some collections bought *en bloc* are also unpriced, or priced in a general manner. It is no use for a critic to find on a label of a terra cotta group, that it is 'part of a collection bought for 1,200*l.*,' and that it is 'surmounted by a carved wood niche, part of a collection bought for 2,540*l.*' In these cases the prices paid for the individual objects can always be ascertained, and the Museum should not submit to the conditions laid down by certain foreign dealers that the prices paid by a public department shall not be divulged to the public.

"(16.) We have reserved criticism of the Art Library because we have received a mass of evidence on the subject, and we think that this section requires such careful organisation that it should be dealt with separately. In the first place we must dissent from the view of the Secretary of the Department that the Art Library is a 'comparatively small subsidiary part of the Museum.' In our opinion it is perhaps the most important so far as students and craftsmen are concerned. It has no specific grant in the Estimates: and the keeper of the library denied the statement that his views as to the financial needs of the library were consulted previous to drawing up the Estimate. The keeper of the library is not responsible for even the most insignificant purchases. He had ordered certain photographs of paintings, but was forbidden to buy them, as the pictures were said to be rubbish. A few weeks later the collection was sold and the National Galleries of Berlin, London, and Buda Pesth purchased some of the originals of which photographs were not allowed to be bought for the library. Mr. Weale found the library in ridiculous chaos on his appointment. He has reduced it to order, reorganised the system of cataloguing, swept away old abuses, and he has overtaken much of the accumulated arrears. But the system of purchase, control, and staffing is organically unsound and much remains to be done. Mr. Weale asked for the report of some distinguished Librarian upon the whole library. Had this suggestion been accepted the system might have been reformed by now without publicity and scandal. The urgent requirements of the library are (a) a separate staff, (b) a special entrance examination, (c) responsibility of the keeper.

"A separate staff is necessary in order that the officials may not be transferred from section to section. Bibliography requires a strict training, and it is a mistake to suppose that the library will make progress in the future if it continues necessary to 'do the best it can with all-round men,' according to Sir John Donnelly's phrase. These officials do not merely catalogue acquisitions; they should possess an intimate acquaintance with their books, in order to direct the researches of many thousand students who work in the library. Men should go to the library young, and with a view of staying there; it is quite useless to send a man into the library at the age of 32 or 33 unless he has had previous library training; the official has to be removed, or remains a burden to his colleagues, who have to correct his mistakes.

"(17.) Library vacancies should be advertised. Candidates who enter competitive examinations for South Kensington Museum ought to know that they may be sent into the library. One gentleman who wanted a post in the Museum was put into the library, the existence of which he did not know; he dislikes library work, and is trying to get transferred to the Museum. Another gentleman was entitled, by having won the highest place in a competitive examination, to choose the section in which to serve. This privilege was taken away from him. He was sent to the library much against his wishes, and after 15 months he succeeded in getting transferred to the Museum. One need scarcely point out that these officials, though excellent men, are not fit persons to be on the library staff.

"(18.) If a separate staff be conceded, a special examination should be allowed as well. The librarian at Jermyn Street is specially examined already. We do not mean to suggest that all the examination papers should differ from those of candidates for the Museum, but that one or more special subjects should be substituted for those which are at present unnecessary for Art Library work. This is the British Museum plan; the subject can, of course, be varied according to the needs of the library. Thus, at present, there is no junior who knows anything of German, a language of the first importance in an art library. As long ago as 1892 the keeper suggested that candidates should be acquainted with the library rules. The secretary holds that it would be 'absurd to have a special library examination'; we shall refer later on to some of the results of having general examinations and all-round men.

"(19.) The system of cataloguing which has been introduced by Mr. Weale is approved by the highest authorities on bibliography, and in no other library is his useful system of a printed list of weekly acquisitions followed; these lists are much appreciated by the readers, and they ensure the



Weale, I., 6920 prompt entry of all accessions. Classified catalogues of books on particular subjects have been printed, and further volumes are in contemplation. A code of cataloguing rules has also been made, and is strictly enforced. Sir E. Maunde Thompson's view is, that the library of the British Museum could never get on without such rules. South Kensington, however, has dispensed with them for forty years, that is, until Mr. Weale's appointment. Mr. Soden Smith during his later years suffered from ill-health, and was away from the Museum for months together. His subordinates had no rules to guide them, they were liable to be shifted from section to section, and the catalogue shows a strange lack of knowledge. H. C. Reneue is given in the catalogue as an author's name: it is really a misprint for the French word meaning 'revised.' Deel is also given as an author, the word being the Dutch for 'volume.' The title of a book on the Marian Annals, 'Mariani Fasti,' is transformed into an author's name; Fasti being made the surname, and Mariani the Christian name. Another habitual error seems to have arisen from confusion between the writer's name and the name of his town or birthplace, which was frequently appended to the name in the 15th and 16th centuries. There are many other errors of this description. Corrections are being made wherever these farcical entries are discovered, but the current work of the library is too great to permit any systematic search for these vagaries. Another result of bad cataloguing, that is to say, working without clearly defined rules, has been that the library has bought many duplicates. The keeper stated that he could give several hundred instances. There are over 22 copies of various editions of Alciatus' book on Emblems, an utterly excessive number, even considering that books are sent on circulation. The Hokusai case is even more remarkable: this is a collection of sketches published in 14 volumes. The first is complete, with an extra volume 5; the second set has 14 volumes, without extra cuts. The third copy wants volumes 1, 8, and 12. The fourth set wants volumes 1, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14. The fifth set wants volumes 1, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14. The sixth set wants all but volumes 2, 5, 7, and 10. The seventh and eighth sets only consists of volumes 2 and 5. These superfluities should be transferred to other libraries and art schools. The collection of prints is in a similar condition. No proper inventory having been kept, there are enormous amounts of duplicates and triplicates; five copies of the same print can often be found, together with a few spurious copies. Of some prints the library has as many as 20 or 30 copies. The bad ones should be suppressed, and a number of the better examples should be transferred to circulation and given away to provincial schools. Care must be taken in the future that the number of repetitions shall not be increased. The purchasing should be in the hands of the keeper; no outside amateur should act as broker for the Museum.

"It may be necessary to make a separate department for prints and drawings.

"A curious illustration of departmental laxity is shown in the practice of binding up advertisements. The letterpress of various newspapers and journals taken in by the Library was separated from the advertisements and bound up; but the advertisements were also bound up separately in half morocco with gilt edges. When Mr. Weale was made keeper he immediately put a stop to this waste, and withdrew the subscription to newspapers such as 'Puck.' He sent 213 volumes of this rubbish, advertisement pages of the 'Garden,' 'The Queen,' 'The Builder,' and other architectural journals to stores. Here they were destroyed. Nothing deposited in the Library and Museum, however absurd, should be destroyed without express sanction of the Board.

"(20.) We now pass to the position held by the keeper in his administrative capacity. He is not a responsible official; he is not responsible for purchases, which are subject to the constant interference of his superior officers. He is not responsible for cataloguing the books, prints, photographs, &c., of which he is the nominal keeper. He is not consulted about the financial needs of the library. In spite of the fact that Mr. Weale was an expert of European reputation, he occupied the position of an administrative nonentity. As keeper of the Art Library he should be responsible for purchases, but his protests have been absolutely disregarded.

"A collection of drawings of old London architecture was bought for 350*l*. The whole sum was charged to the Art Library vote. The keeper protested that the price was excessive, and pointed out that the drawings would be useless to his students, especially as they were nearly all reproduced in a book already bought for the library. The collection had previously been refused by the Guildhall Library and the British Museum, but the purchase was forced upon the keeper, and when he had signed the bill as correct the collection was hurried off to Bethnal Green without the librarian's sanction or suggestion.

"There are about 100,000 photographs in the Art Library. They would be invaluable for reference were there a proper catalogue. The existing index is very defective. The library is suffering from previous neglect, for all the cataloguing should have been done as the photographs were added to the library. Three gentlemen (outsiders) were appointed to continue the catalogue. The keeper informed the director that they were incompetent, but they were, nevertheless, appointed, one of them receiving a fee of three guineas a day, a sum larger than the weekly salary of a junior assistant who could have done the work; this appointment was made in the face of an official protest, although we were informed that outside experts are employed on the recommendation of the keeper. We may add that a boy attendant was taken on at 4*d*. an hour, he 'simply did the fetching and carrying of photographs.' We again point out that, for this kind of cataloguing, payment should be by the slip, not by the day. The work should be carried out under the supervision of the keeper, who will have to revise the slips. In this case he was told not to interfere. The work went on until the vote for these gentlemen's salaries had been exceeded by 100*l*. (Hansard, July 30, 1898).

"(21.) A great deal of evidence has been laid before us about the catalogue of 'National Engraved Portraits,' compiled by a cousin of the Secretary of the Department. The compiler was appointed in spite of protests from the keeper, who said that it would be a sheer waste of public money. The prediction has been verified. The catalogue has no index whatever. It is grossly inaccurate



inaccurate, and full of absurdities, so far as the biographical notes adapted (sometimes almost verbatim), from previous catalogues issued by South Kensington are concerned. Pugin, for instance, is said to have 'cruised about the Channel, collecting archæological and natural curiosities.' Hobson is said to have died 'at the time of the plague' in 1630. Ballantyne became a friend of Sir Walter Scott in 1873, and in the same year Sir David Baird took the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch! Jackson, a publican pugilist, has eleven lines of biography, while Lord Beaconsfield, 'Conservative Politician,' has three. It is difficult to believe that the compiler was paid two guineas a day for correcting his proofs. In some biographies the compiler is offensive (cf. Paget Bradford, &c.). In other cases the 'national' prints represent personages of whom no particulars can be given simply because they were not of national moment—Mr. West, for instance, waxchandler and oilman of Soho. Such prints are useless to an art library, and there is no need to spend large sums of money in describing them. The catalogue of the National Portrait Gallery, accurate, indexed, and scholarly, costs 6*d.* unbound. Nothing was paid for its compilation, the work being done by the keeper and his staff. But this catalogue (bound in cheap cloth), though not more bulky than the other, has 5*s.* 3*d.* as the price on its title page. This is erased at South Kensington, where a stamp is affixed worded, 'reduced to 3*s.* 6*d.*,' or 'Price at the museum 3*s.* 6*d.*' The publishers sell the book for 5*s.* 3*d.* and 3*s.* 11½*d.* These various prices are somewhat confusing.

"It is not possible to say how much each slip in the catalogue cost. Compilation of titles for descriptive catalogues should cost from 1*d.* to 6*d.* per title, according to the character of the work. Miss Ffoulkes, an expert employed to make descriptive catalogues, was paid up to 4*d.* a slip. The slips in this catalogue must have cost considerably more. For cataloguing 1,071 foreign portraits 174*l.* was paid—about 3*s.* 2*d.* each—an abnormally high price, even if these slips are more accurate than those in the published volume.

"As to the price of compilation, &c., it was officially stated in Parliament that the cost was 'about 499*l.*' (25 June 1896). This answer was not made without very careful inquiry. Mr. Weale, who had to certify the attendances of the compiler, said that the catalogue cost upwards of 880*l.* Further enquiry was then made at the request of the Committee. It then transpired that the original statement made by the department was entirely wrong; but attention having been drawn to the mistake it was still impossible to state the exact cost, which is alleged to be either 619*l.* or 675*l.* We observe that Mr. Weale's contention that the cost was 880*l.* has not been disproved. But it is immaterial which estimate is accepted. In any case the cost was quite excessive, and the laxity in the financial department most culpable.

"(21a.) The Dyce and Forster Library is a valuable bequest of drawings, and books largely about dramatic matters; not an art library at all. They are somewhat out of place at South Kensington, but we do not of course suggest their removal. We think, however, that the cost of maintaining this library could be reduced without affecting the comfort of the readers. The popularity of the library is waning. There are not now more than two or three readers a day (see annual reports); no cataloguing has to be done except in the case of two periodicals which are taken in. Yet a keeper receives 25*l.* a year for looking after it; there are two attendants, one of whom having nothing to do in Dyce and Forster, works for the Art Library in the Dyce and Forster rooms. Until recently this collection was merged in the Art Library, and controlled by the Keeper of the Art Library. This arrangement was not inconvenient to the readers, and was an economy of money and time. But when an official was recently transferred from the Circulation Department he was made keeper, and was put in charge of Dyce and Forster. We recommend a return to the old system, which worked well.

"To conclude our survey of the Art Library, we repeat our conviction that it is absolutely necessary to have the best available specialist for its keeper; that the keeper should be responsible for his department, and that his subordinates should be trained bibliographers, not liable to come into the library at a moment's notice from the Indian or Circulation Departments, and not liable to be sent from the Art Library to look after textiles or ceramics.

"(22.) Few persons will claim that the South Kensington Museum enjoys public confidence. 'South Kensington has got a bad name,' said Sir Archibald Geikie, and he proceeded to point out that the Jermyn Street Museum, of which he is the Director, has suffered in consequence. As long ago as 1873, the Government of the day settled to transfer the South Kensington collections to the custody of the British Museum. In 1893 the Government offered the Bethnal Green Museum to the London County Council, and we understand that the offer has never been withdrawn. The very nature of the buildings at South Kensington, a congested mass of temporary sheds and graceless barns, shows clearly enough that the administration has not hitherto won the confidence of the Exchequer. Happily this reproach is to be removed, though curiously enough the promised expenditure synchronises with the year during which the Science and Art Department will be deprived of many important functions for which it has always been responsible. This popular distrust has long been felt. In 1882 Lord Spencer appointed a Consultative Committee of gentlemen, hoping that they might overcome the prejudice in the mind of the public. The secretary once suggested some kind of Visiting Board, and, although these boards have failed in the past, we are firmly convinced that, in order to rehabilitate the prestige of South Kensington, a Board of Visitors should be appointed to supervise the whole Art Section. The Dublin Museum has already got such a Board, working in harmony with the director and helping to inspire confidence in Ireland. At the British Museum the unpaid board of trustees works very well. We do not recommend trustees for South Kensington, but visitors, the executive powers being vested in the Parliamentary heads of the Department.

"As to the constitution of the board, our suggestions must necessarily be of a tentative character. We think that the board should not exceed 17 in number. One member should be nominated by the Executive Committee of the Society of Antiquaries, and the president of that body should also serve *ex-officio*. One member should be nominated by the trustees of the National

Weale, I., 6837.  
Appendix, I.,  
No. 37 and 38.Donnelly, I.,  
6817, &c.Weale, I., 6810.  
Donnelly, I.,  
6829.  
Donnelly, I.,  
1340.

Weale, I., 6732.

Donnelly, II.,  
587.Donnelly, II.,  
472.

Bailey, I., 7457.

Weale, I., 6748.

Appendix, I.,  
No. 41.Donnelly,  
I., 1189.Donnelly,  
I., 1171.

Appendix, I., 24.

Weale, I., 6193.

Geikie, I., 5536.

Appendix,  
I., No. 2.Appendix,  
I., No. 25.Donnelly,  
I., 2027.Lord Spencer,  
I., 5148.Donnelly,  
I., 2033.Plunkett,  
I., 4944.

Graves, II., 2094.

Maunde  
Thompson,  
I., 6509.



Gallery, one by the trustees of the Hertford House Collection, and three by the trustees of the British Museum. The Crown should select three other members, and the remaining seven should be appointed by the Committee of Council. Such a body would represent all the interests of the country.

"The functions of the board would be advisory.

"(a.) They would meet fortnightly or monthly at South Kensington, as required by themselves. They must arrange their own meetings and agenda.

"(b.) Power should be given to the board to appoint sub-committees.

"(c.) Minutes of each committee and sub-committee should be regularly kept by its secretary, to be appointed by the Visitors.

"(d.) The board would advise the Lord President upon all questions connected with the arrangement, management, cataloguing, and classification of collections. Also with regard to loans, purchases, elimination, and exchange. The board should inspect the museum periodically.

"(e.) We cannot recommend that they should appoint officials, although this privilege is accorded to the trustees of the Science and Art Department Library at Dublin. But we think they should be entitled to advise about appointments, promotion, and transfer of officials.

"(f.) They should give special care to the development of circulation.

"(g.) They should have the power to call in the director and keepers of the museum for consultation.

"(h.) They should make an annual report, to be embodied in that of the department.

"All executive power remains with the Department. The Visitors would have no control over the Royal College of Art, though we may remark incidentally that this institution would also be strengthened by a board of independent advisers appointed after an open inquiry into the management of the college. Many of the duties we have suggested were to have appertained to the committees of advice, which were directed to advise on 'purchases, elimination of objects, cataloguing, general arrangements, &c.' But these committees, with an aggregate of 80 members, not having been summoned for years, have been quite inoperative. We cannot over estimate the vital necessity for a prompt application of the old system on the basis we have outlined. Nothing else will restore confidence so effectively. We are glad to find that Mr. Clarke and others intimately connected with the Department, both now and in past years, are likely to view such a body with sympathy.

"(23.) We now pass to a consideration of the Science Museum. Our remarks on the administration of the art side apply to some extent to the science side: not nearly so much, because we notice with satisfaction that responsibility is more accurately defined, with the result that conflict between officials does not arise. Moreover the training of those employed on the science side has been more suitably arranged. The shuffling of officials, which has had such disastrous effect in the Art and Indian Museums, is neither feasible nor necessary in the Science Museum, where the vote is smaller, and the separate branches of the work are fewer. Expert knowledge is of course required in the Science Museum, but since machinery is not forged like works of art, the purchase of scientific examples is not attended by the same risk as is the case in the Art Museum. We have already shown that the Director for Science (Captain Abney, R.E.) does not interfere with the purchasing duties of the Director of the Science Museum. This is the proper delimitation of work, as the Director for Science is fully occupied in forwarding the educational work of the country. We must, however, repeat that the Director of the Science Museum should be relieved of some duties now cast upon him. The appointment of a clerk of the works would bring about this alteration. At present there is nobody between the director and the labourers except the ordinary foreman. We need hardly say that much of General Festing's time is thus occupied in work which could well be done otherwise, leaving him free to devote his whole time to the museum.

"It is somewhat difficult to criticise the Science Museum, which combines examples exhibited for their historical value, with those shown for their scientific or mechanical value. The earliest locomotive engines are of the utmost interest from a historical aspect, while the phonograph has an equal value from the point of view of modern science. But considering the rather crowded state of the museum, the growth of these collections will produce a difficulty about elimination. A great many things have already been weeded out, but the time will come (and in some cases has already come) when objects bought for their mechanical value will become so obsolete that they may be worth keeping as curiosities. No doubt the difficulty can be best overcome by carefully eliminating examples as soon as they are out of date. The museum should be primarily educational and discretion should be exercised to prevent an undue proportion of historical over effective exhibits. At the present moment the Science Museum is a compromise between the history and modern application of scientific enterprise. Its historic collection is by no means complete, while the section of working models contains a number of exhibits which are practically worthless for the artisan who wishes to see modern machinery. Electric lighting machinery is scarcely represented at all; likewise photography, phonography, and other modern scientific applications; the most recent working model is eight or nine years old, and others date back to 1860. These are of course superseded and therefore useless to the engineering student, though they may be of some slight interest to the historian. The director holds that a science museum should 'have as its leading feature the illustration of great principles.' In this we agree with him, and we think that this object will be most readily obtained by eliminating those examples which are obsolete from a mechanical

Donnelly  
I., 47.

Appendix.  
I., No. 34

Robinson  
I., 7602.  
Armstrong  
I., 4892.  
Plunkett,  
I., 4355.  
Spencer, I., 5136.  
Lord Carlisle  
I., 8001.

Festing,  
I., 2375.

Festing,  
I., 2275.  
Estimates,  
IV., 2, F. 1

See para. 3.

Festing,  
I., 1694.

Cf. Festing,  
I., 2934.

Festing, II., 745.

Festing, II., 747.

Festing, II., 819

Festing, II., 824.

Festing, II., 821

Festing, II., 841



mechanical aspect, and which, not having initiated any principle, are unlikely to prove of historical importance hereafter. Specimens coming under this category are numerous in every department of the Science Museum. We admit that the purchase grant is not large enough to secure examples of every improved engine or appliance; but it is adequate to buy models of all those which illustrate the leading principles of science. We wish to say nothing that will discourage gifts and loans to the museum; but at the same time we are bound to point out that care should be exercised to prevent the acceptance of loans which are obviously sent for purposes of advertisement. This danger was commented upon by a Committee which reported in 1886. We have had no evidence to show that this danger has been a serious one; there being fewer examples in the South Kensington Museum to which this objection can be taken than in the Edinburgh Museum, or at Jermyn-street, where Borax soap and Messrs. Trufitt's hair washes are gravely exhibited as 'technological specimens.' Festing, I., 2170.

"(24.) The circulation of scientific objects is almost entirely confined to schools and institutes. It would seem that the circulation on the science side is not in so great a request as on the art side; but there is, nevertheless, room for considerable development of this work, more particularly among the smaller townships. In the great industrial centres the schools already possess an equipment often better than that of the Royal College of Science itself. To such places South Kensington can be of little service. To the other places attention should be given. In 1896 only 59 places received loans (*See Appendix in annual reports*).

"(25.) We recommend that the museum of fish culture should be abolished. Previous recommendations to this effect have already been made. The secretary and the director both agree that it should be removed, and it has already been offered to two public bodies, being rejected by both. The fact is, that this collection is dangerous, owing to the large amount of alcohol in which the fish are stored; it is obsolete, not having been revised or increased for several years; and it does not carry out its obligations under the testamentary conditions of Professor Buckland's will. It occupies a good deal of space. Opinion being unanimous, we hope that this collection may disappear without delay. Donnelly, I., 915.  
Festing, I., 2162.  
Donnelly, I., 917, 936.

"(25A.) We have sketched a plan of a board of visitors for the art museum, but a somewhat analogous body already exists in the science museum. These gentlemen are unpaid, and they advise on questions of purchase, elimination, &c. This committee should be strengthened by the addition of several members, including the presidents for the time being of certain leading scientific societies. We also consider that their meetings should be held more regularly than has recently been the case, and that minutes of their proceedings should be regularly kept. Judd, II., 984.

"(26.) The important question of danger from fire has already been reported upon by this committee, and the Government has taken some steps to protect the museum. Fires have broken out in 1877, 1885, 1889, and 1897, possibly oftener, and although they have been 'very trifling,' it was necessary in one case to telegraph for all the engines that could be obtained. In spite of this, the fire burned for three hours, destroying 100 yards of the roof as well as a large number of exhibits. In 1893 an expert made a long report on the danger from fire; a cursory glance at this will demonstrate the extraordinary dangers by which the museum has been threatened for years. Some of the recommendations made in this report have been adopted. The recent action of Her Majesty's Office of Works has minimised other dangers, but the risks are still grave. It would be tedious to refer to the details which require attention; we will content ourselves with pointing out that the 'standpipes and hose of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade are neither in screw nor diameter such as would fit the hydrants' in the grounds of South Kensington (p. 8 of report). There is only one effective remedy, namely, that the entire responsibility should be handed over to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. This system works well at the British Museum and does not interfere with the discipline of the museum staff. Outbreaks have not been prevented by the present arrangement at South Kensington. In every way it is advisable to place control in the hands of trained and expert professionals. Festing, I., 2120, 2925.  
Festing, I., 2120.  
Clarke, I., 3721.  
Donnelly, I., 8437.  
App. I., No. 33.  
Maunde Thompson, I., 6403, 6415.

"(27.) The question of fire is closely related to the question of buildings. As the temporary shedding is removed the danger will diminish. Classification will then become possible, and works of art will be visible in proper light. As a Departmental Committee is now considering the distribution of buildings provided for in the Budget of 1898-99, we do not think it necessary to do more than advert to some leading points worthy of consideration.

"(a.) The Committee has already made a unanimous report that the Science and Art Collections should not be combined. To make one building serve the purposes of two will prohibit the development of both collections; and will bring the art collections into dangerous proximity to noxious fumes engendered by scientific laboratories. The art collections should be massed on the east side of Exhibition Road; the science collections being concentrated on the west side. This view has been reinforced by an influential memorial to the Prime Minister. There are very large vacant sites on the estate belonging to the Commissioners of 1851. We are strongly of opinion that these sites should be devoted to buildings for the development of art and science. In no case should they be sold for residential purposes. App. II., No. 18.  
Roscoe, II., 3158.

"(b.) An annual rental of 4,526*l.* is paid by the Science and Art Department for the buildings on the west side of Exhibition Road. We consider this sum quite excessive, as the buildings in question are of a most inferior character. One of them is the Refreshment Department of an exhibition held in the sixties. A large proportion of these buildings are not top-lighted. App. I., No. 11.

(c.) We



App. I., No. 11.

(c.) We also think that the annual rental of 1,073*l.* paid for the Jermyn Street buildings high, although in this case the building is substantial. We have already recommended the removal of this museum to South Kensington, where there is ample room for it; at Jermyn Street no extension can be hoped for. Capitalised at 25 years' purchase, the rental would be sufficient to erect a fine building adapted to modern ideas of museum construction.

"(d.) The offices and secretarial department should be removed to Whitehall as soon as the new Government buildings are completed. We understand that provision has already been made for this purpose by the First Commissioner of Works, and we express our full concurrence with his decision. This would give additional space at South Kensington; further space would also be gained by removing the barracks and canteen; also by abolishing the museum of fish culture.

"(e.) As the Sheepshanks collection of pictures was bequeathed to the Science and Art Department on condition that it should remain in the control of the Museum authorities, and within reach of the students of the Royal College of Art, we suggest that the collection should be removed to the Tate Gallery at Millbank; and a building immediately contiguous to it should be erected for the Royal College of Art, which is now much hampered for space. This scheme would concentrate the national collections of modern pictures, and would afford much needed expansion to the Royal College of Art, besides making additional space available at South Kensington.

"(f.) We think that the time has come when the name of the central museum of the Science and Art Department should be changed. We would respectfully suggest "Prince Albert Museum" or "Victoria Museum."

"(28.) We now turn to the subsidiary museums at Edinburgh, Dublin, Jermyn Street, and Bethnal Green. It appears to us that these museums all suffer from the centralising tendency of South Kensington. Dealing with Edinburgh first, we find that the director has no right to spend more than 20*l.* without obtaining permission of the Director for Art in London; and it is the Director for Art who settles whether an object offered for purchase shall go before that Board or not. This is objectionable because the art expert, the Director of the Museum, is not consulted; while the teaching expert, the Director for Art, has the controlling voice in matters of purchase. The head of the Edinburgh Department should be allowed greater initiative; and it must be remembered that the cost of this restriction is considerable, as objects are constantly sent about in order to obtain approval of the Director for Art. Again the Edinburgh Museum ought to share the work of distributing loans among the Scottish Museums and art schools, but this is also exclusively managed from London.

"As to the nature of objects shown in Edinburgh we think that a better class of exhibits should be sent from South Kensington; there are some admirable casts in the Edinburgh Museum, but the number of good originals is singularly small. There are no water-colour drawings or pictures. The collection at the London Museum is so overcrowded that a transfer would be of mutual advantage. On the other hand, the museum contains a number of articles which might be advantageously removed. The loan of the Gutta-Percha Company, London, is obviously an advertisement. Pen trays, photographs, frames, &c., likewise the exhibit of modern boots and shoes of a very inferior type. These should be removed, and the valuable examples of tiles, now in a dark place, should be substituted for them. The ethnographic photographs of naked Tasmanians should be placed in the library and be given out to students when required. The collection of living fish, frogs, &c., is unnecessary. There is no periodical stock taking; this should not be omitted. We see no reason why the public should have to pay for admission on three days in the week.

"(29.) The Dublin Museum has the best buildings of any belonging to the Science and Art Department. The space, however, is very inadequate. The national library will shortly have to be enlarged, and it is already proposed to secure land whereon to build the new college of science. The Celtic collection is by far the most important in the world, and since the appointment of this Committee, steps have been taken to remedy the strange architectural error by which a gallery with no rooms above it was not provided with sky lighting. Three extra rooms are to be added for the proper display of this collection. Lecture rooms should also be added if funds permit. There is no need for large sums to be spent on them, as they will not be required for big audiences, but they would add materially to the educational powers of the museum.

"The Director of the Dublin Museum occupies the same relation to the Department as does the Director at Edinburgh. The remarks we have already made on this subject apply equally to the Dublin Director, who should be allowed initiative and responsibility. The salary of the keeper of the Celtic antiquities should be raised; the late keeper only having received 257*l.* annually. This sum is not adequate remuneration for a first-class archæologist who will give all his time to the work. The collection is of untold value, containing unique objects which cannot be matched in any other museum at home or abroad. Many of them are not fully described, while others have no descriptive label whatever. This cataloguing should be pressed forward; meanwhile the old catalogues, made for the Royal Irish Academy, should be cut up and the labels be appended to the objects. The Natural History staff should be increased, and a technical assistant should be added to the Botanical staff. Professor Johnstone's salary should be considerably enhanced. Enquiry should also be made into the statement that an insufficient number of police is employed.

"Dublin has already got a board of visitors. We think that they should meet more regularly, keeping minutes of their proceedings. They should have more initiative, and their views upon elimination of unsuitable objects should be requested. We think they might consider the advisability of holding special exhibitions, the last of which was held in 1885. The subject of co-operation



co-operation with other educational bodies is one upon which their advice would be valuable. A closer connection with the technical instruction classes now held in Dublin should be brought about; and so far as the country is concerned, the greatest care should be taken by the Department as well as by Dublin Museum itself, to direct the development of technical art training into proper channels. The art industries of Ireland are dormant; but there is no reason why carving in wood and stone, furniture, lace-making, and silver work should not regain the high standing of former years. The circulation of carefully selected specimens from South Kensington should be encouraged as much as possible. Other industries of a more commercial character, weaving for instance, and spinning, would also be benefited, if the craftsmen could have good examples of textiles to copy.

“(30.) We have already referred incidentally to the Bethnal Green Museum, and we have referred to the need for a careful examination of the manner in which the sums voted by Parliament have been spent. The modern collections are housed there, part of which is considered to have no teaching value. This museum should not be made the rubbish heap of South Kensington, and no object of vicious taste should be exhibited there (*e.g.*, the silver hansom cab), nor should branded forgeries be allowed to remain (*e.g.*, Della Robbia). Bethnal Green Museum occupies a central site in East London. The population is exclusively artisan in character, and we consider that under the circumstances Bethnal Green is entitled to exceptional treatment. Moreover, the museum is built upon land which belonged to a local charity, and large subscriptions were raised from City companies and prominent persons connected with East London. In the early days of the museum the Committee of Council promised to add a library as well as a school of science and art to the museum. This promise has remained unfulfilled. We cannot say that the museum as it stands is of any use to the community. The Bishop of Stepney called it a ‘lost opportunity.’ Another witness says it is regarded as a ‘white elephant,’ suitable for nothing beyond a playground and resting-place for children. Bethnal Green does not complain, because ‘in the East End we are thankful for small mercies, and our expressions of regret have been somewhat suppressed lest we should lose anything.’ Properly organised, this museum would become an effective agency for the improvement of technical instruction in the East End. It might be made into a municipal museum as suggested by the Government; if this be not done the Department must prevent the disappointment and waste resulting from the ill-equipped condition of the museum. There is a vacant space north of the present building. This site, or part of it, might be offered to the free library in Bethnal Green, which now occupies a very unsuitable position. The juxtaposition of museum and library would be of reciprocal advantage. A local advisory committee would prevent the repetition of errors which have been made, particularly with regard to the nature of exhibits. Proper lecture-rooms would be of great value, provided, of course, that the departmental staff were competent, and that the lectures, demonstrations, &c., were devoted to subjects in which the industrial classes of East London are interested. Mr. Clarke has organised two exhibitions of furniture and leather work, the staple trades of the district; but these were isolated efforts, insufficiently advertised, and not followed up. Bethnal Green requires special treatment. The worthless things should be sent away—the food collection, exhibiting, curiously enough, models of the daily rations of a convict, the stuffed birds, the vineyard, the forgeries, and the modern pottery, negroes, and so forth. The furniture should be replaced by examples which the local people might copy without risking their livelihood. The annual exhibitions held at Toynbee Hall show that the inhabitants of East London appreciate good exhibitions, especially when lectures are given about the exhibits. 70,000 visitors attend these exhibitions during the three weeks they are open. Bethnal Green might become a source of similar pleasure and instruction if our suggestions are carried out.

“(31.) The Jermyn Street Museum illustrates geology in its stratigraphical as opposed to its geographical aspect. It is essentially a collection of British specimens, and as such has a special value. We have already recommended the removal of this collection to South Kensington. This museum also contains objects which are only remotely connected with British Geology, such as wall papers from Pekin, Greek vases, Egyptian idols, Limoges enamels, Persian china, &c. Those objects which have any artistic merit should be transferred to the art department at South Kensington, for they are not appreciated at Jermyn Street, where the shelves are very crowded. Many specimens are not labelled, and are placed too high on the walls to be seen properly. Some of these art objects have already been lent to private exhibitions, *e.g.* enamels to the Burlington Fine Arts Club. The chief art collection in the Geological Museum is the unrivalled collection of British Pottery. The director of the Museum holds that the technological interest of this pottery is far greater than artistic interest. To this we must respectfully demur. The technological side of British pottery can be illustrated by fragments as well as by complete specimens—better indeed, for the fragments display the clay and component parts, while the complete specimen shows nothing but the surface and glaze. This collection should also be moved to the Central Museum, leaving some examples as specimens. Care should be taken to limit the scope of Jermyn Street. It is argued that everything in which mineral substances are used can be appropriately placed in the Museum. This means that every object at South Kensington, excluding purely vegetable products such as textiles and wood carving, together with ivories and certain paintings, would be appropriate to Jermyn Street. The British Geological Museum should exhibit British geological specimens. Ample accommodation for British pottery and foreign objects of art can be found elsewhere.

“(32.) We have heard evidence from Wales. Without making any definite recommendation we are of opinion that a good case has been made out for the establishment of a Science and Art Museum in the principality. It is, of course, largely a question of money, but in the event of the Bethnal Green Museum being removed from the control of the Department, we think that the moneys so saved might be devoted advantageously to a museum in Wales. A delicate point arises as to the town in which the museum should be placed, but our witnesses said that the problem could



could be solved if any tangible proposal to create a museum were put forward. The population of South Wales is increasing rapidly, and the museum would be most useful in one of the large towns on the south coast. This matter would have to be settled by a Departmental Committee unbiassed in favour of any particular locality. Failing the establishment of such a museum, the circulation department should take precautions to prevent the continuance of what has undoubtedly been neglect of Wales in the immediate past.

Robinson,  
I., 7510.  
Vol. I., No. 32.

Robinson,  
I., 7516.

"(33.) On the second day of our inquiry last year evidence was given to the Committee about a controversy which took place 15 years ago; this related to the purchase of 'the Hillingford collection of armour.' General Donnelly came prepared with a mass of evidence apparently discrediting Sir Charles Robinson, who was connected with the transaction. The evidence was quite irrelevant, having no bearing upon the system of purchase, and much time has been wasted upon the subject. Sir Charles Robinson attributes the attack upon him to malice, and it is palpable that the Secretary was prompted by animus against a very candid critic. The circumstances of the incident are fully set forth in an appendix. An inquiry was made at the time into the matter, and Sir Charles Robinson received various letters from distinguished persons who were fully acquainted with the whole proceeding. These letters he read to the Committee. Sir Wollaston Franks, of the British Museum, said: 'A mountain has been made out of a molehill, much to the discredit of those who attempted to raise it.' Lord Lytton calls it a 'miserable little intrigue.' Sir George Birdwood points out that the 'calumnies' were prompted by 'envy, hatred, and uncharitableness.' Sir William Gregory wrote that the 'efforts of envious and self-interested persons' were employed to oust Sir Charles Robinson. Equally caustic are the criticisms of Lord de L'Isle and Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane. The Macleod of Macleod, ex-Secretary of the Science and Art Department, wrote a letter of warm sympathy to Sir Charles Robinson; so also did Sir Philip Owen, who was at the time Director of the Museum.

Robinson,  
I., 7516, 7575.

"There is one material fact which governs the whole controversy. This fact was not announced by Sir John Donnelly, otherwise the Committee would have paid no heed to his attack. The fact is, that throughout the entire controversy, Sir Philip Owen, Director of the Museum, was fully acquainted with the incidents and negotiations as they arose. As head official he was cognisant with the whole transaction, a sure guarantee that the proceedings were carried on in an honourable and official manner.

Appendix, II.,  
No. 11.

"(34.) It is now our duty to refer to a grave public scandal, namely, the dismissal of Mr. Weale, Keeper of the Art Library. Mr. Weale is a man of the highest distinction, being in fact, the only living man out of the large staff of the Science and Art Department who has an international reputation. He gave evidence on several occasions. We admit that this evidence must have been distasteful to the authorities, because he ruthlessly exposed the folly and abuses of the present system; in fact, when asked a question, he answered it fully and without reserve. At the same time his work in the Library has been of the utmost value, having reduced it from chaos to order. He has had official recognition of the 'diligence and fidelity' with which his work has been carried out.

Appendix,  
II., No. 8.

Donnelly,  
II., 602.

Appendix,  
II., No. 2.

"On the 19th February 1897 the Department asked for an extension of Mr. Weale's services, dating from March 8th, when he would naturally retire under the 65 year rule. The claim was submitted that he should continue to serve 'until the Committee had reported.' This, of course, means that his evidence as an official would be wanted by the Committee. But to this application by the Department are added the ominous words, 'My Lords also request that the consideration of his further retention may be reserved till then,' namely, until the Committee had reported. To this application the Treasury sanctioned an extension 'for such period, not exceeding one year from 8th March 1897, as may elapse before the report of the Committee.' The meaning of this phrase seems to us to be obvious, namely, that the Treasury meant Mr. Weale to remain while the Committee was taking evidence, but not beyond 8th March 1898. Upon their interpretation of this phrase my Lords dismissed Mr. Weale at the end of the last session of Parliament, when the Committee undoubtedly made a report. All committees report at the end of a Session, or at the end of their inquiry. If their work be completed, they report their final conclusions; if their work be unfinished, as in this case, they report that fact to Parliament, suggesting their re-appointment, in order that a real report may be duly made.

"It is clear that the Treasury held this view. Later on in the year Mr. Hanbury wrote a very significant letter to the Department. After referring to the question of a gratuity for Mr. Weale and to the date of his retirement, he says:—

Appendix,  
II., No. 12,  
Letter 4.

"'It is, of course, for the Lords of the Committee to decide as to the date on which Mr. Weale's services should be dispensed with, but having reference to the fact that the Committee after making a first report have recommended that they should be re-appointed, their Lordships desire me to state that they will be ready to consider favourably any recommendation of their Lordships of the Committee for the further continuation of Mr. Weale's services, if they shall think that course will be for the convenience of the Committee and of the Department of Science and Art.'

Appendix,  
II., No. 12,  
Letter 5.

But five days after Mr. Weale's dismissal the Committee of Council had appointed his successor,—noteworthy promptitude—and 'my Lords have no further occasion for his services.'

Donnelly,  
II., 345.

Donnelly, II., 44.

"The Committee reported in May 1897. Why did not Mr. Weale retire then? The Committee also reported on 23rd July 1897, a document merely detailing the witnesses heard, recording a vote of condolence to the family of the late Mr. Mundella, together with a further warning about dangers from fire. According to General Donnelly, Mr. Weale should have retired automatically on the appearance of this report. 'Under certain circumstances' he remained—that is to say he was not told of his approaching demission. What these circumstances were we have failed to discover, though



though we may point out that Parliament was sitting at the time, with every prospect of continuing to sit for another fortnight; and Parliament was not prorogued until 6th August. On the 13th of the same month, one week after Parliament had risen, Mr. Weale received the letter notifying his dismissal. Thus the services of Mr. Weale, a keeper of the Museum, and a man of European distinction, were dispensed with at a week's notice, as if he were an ordinary wage earner. It is perfectly true that Mr. Weale was paid until 20th October, but this was for his holiday already earned by the preceding 12 months' work. The fact therefore remains that Mr. Weale had no proper notice of his dismissal and that the Department paid no more salary in consequence of this dismissal than they already owed him. We unfortunately have not been able to secure all the documents dealing with this incident. The Treasury letter granting Mr. Weale's extension is dated 2nd March 1897, that is six days before the expiry of his term of years. There had been a previous letter of sanction from the Treasury, which was withdrawn; since we gather that it did not contain the clause empowering the Department to consider further retention after the nature of his evidence could be surveyed.

Appendix,  
II., No. 1.Donnelly,  
II., 320.

"A highly instructive commentary upon this matter is afforded by the correspondence about the retention of Mr. Armstrong's services, although the Vice President protested that these papers were irrelevant to our inquiry. The Treasury saw no reason for Mr. Armstrong's retention, but they ultimately gave way. In this case the Department took care to request an extension until the Committee had 'finally' reported; a wise provision, otherwise the Director of Art would have retired 'automatically' a few weeks ago, when the Committee reported about the sites of the new buildings at South Kensington. Several reasons were put forward for Mr. Armstrong's retention, most of which the Treasury considered insufficient. The important reason (so far as this particular controversy is concerned) was that Mr. Armstrong should continue in office officially in order to 'justify the work of the Department,' and also to defend certain purchases which had been challenged by members of the Committee. It is a fact that some of his purchases have been challenged, *e.g.*, the notorious gateway, the Bastianini Bust, the so-called Morland portrait, &c. Many other things have also been challenged, such as his action in the Library, his responsibility for the Raffaele cartoons, &c. We do not blame the Department for having put forward the argument that Mr. Armstrong should be enabled to make an official justification of his work. But compare this solicitude with the action taken against Mr. Weale, whose statements had also been challenged by certain members of the Committee. In this case the Department assured the Treasury that there was 'no reason to suppose that the Committee would require to see Mr. Weale again,' adding that should the Committee desire it, his unofficial attendance could, no doubt, be readily secured. We do not know on what authority the Secretary stated that the Committee did not want to see Mr. Weale again. His evidence was actually wanted, but his unofficial evidence would have been worthless. His official evidence would probably have cleared up several points, including the financial confusion about the catalogue of the National Engraved Portraits. The distinction between these two cases is simple. The Director for Art is an uncompromising upholder of South Kensington; the late Keeper of the Art Library has been too active a reformer, has been too frank to the Committee, and has done too much for the benefit of his readers and the public.

Gorst, 593.  
App. II., No. 13.App., II., No. 13,  
Letter 3.App., II., No. 12,  
Letter 4.

"If I had started him off on the 23rd July, none of these questions (about the retention of Mr. Weale's services) could have arisen.' We quote this felicitous phrase of Sir John Donnelly in order to express our opinion that the withholding of Mr. Weale's dismissal until six or seven days after the rising of Parliament was most culpable. If Mr. Weale had been 'started off' when the Committee reported, as the Secretary says ought to have been done, the matter would not have been withdrawn from the purview of Parliament for many months. Only one conclusion can be drawn from a perusal of the documents, an irresistible conclusion that the nature of Mr. Weale's evidence was the sole cause of his dismissal. His evidence was most damning; but this was already provided for; and notwithstanding his invaluable services to the library, his 'diligence' and his 'fidelity,' Mr. Weale was duly punished. We have no doubt that the Department claims 'technical' rectitude for its action. There is no doubt that the Department when inaccurate, and even when resorting to subterfuge, is invariably 'technically right.'

Donnelly,  
II., 645.

App. II., No. 8.

"We do not complain that members of the Select Committee have been flouted, although we imagine that a breach of privilege against a Committee appointed by the House of Commons is tantamount to committing a breach of privilege against Parliament itself. But we enter our most emphatic protest against the treatment meted out to a servant of the Crown. It is generally understood that those who give evidence in the House of Commons enjoy immunity from the persecution of those whom they may offend. We consider it a grave public scandal that a Civil servant should have been treated in this manner; and we cannot expect members of the Science and Art Department who do not agree with its high officers, to give free and straightforward expressions to their opinions until this signal injustice has been redressed.

"Is it not time that those in authority should try to cleanse the 'bad name' attaching to South Kensington? For years the Department has been the nest of these sordid personal controversies: it has been honeycombed with nepotism, and there have been serious monetary defalcations. Even now there are financial questions which demand the immediate attention of the Treasury. Laughable errors will be gladly overlooked by the public if some assurance be given that a serious effort will be made to raise its tone, and to purify its administration. The affection for this Museum, founded by the Prince Consort after a year of great National rejoicing, is widespread; its potential value is enormous; and we hope that our prolonged inquiry may inaugurate a fresh period in the development of Art and Science throughout the country.



### "SHORT SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

"(a.) *Administration*.—Responsibility to be localised. Rules to be rescinded if fallen into desuetude. The position of high officials to be defined. Officials not to be shuffled from branch to branch. Papers in special subjects should be added to examinations. Clause 7 to be used with more discretion. The system of probationary reports should be immediately re-established.

"(b.) *Subordinate Staff*.—Military garrison should be removed. The Works Department to be reorganised. Large economies to be effected.

"(c.) *Estimates* require to be thoroughly overhauled, particularly the H and purchase votes.

"(d.) *Art Museum*.—Art referees should be discontinued. The rubbish in museums should be suppressed. Certain objects should be transferred to other public museums and galleries. Loans to Museum should be insured, and compensation should be paid by the Museum for objects broken when on loan. Control of pictures should be defined. Museum documents and reports should be more carefully preserved.

"(e.) *Circulation*.—We recommend a development of this section. Greater care to be taken in selecting objects; system of sending loans for three or four days to be discouraged. Descriptive labels on objects should be accurate. Cheap catalogues are wanted, lectures, &c. Opinion of local manufacturers, &c., to be more freely invited.

"(f.) *Art Library*.—The requirements are a separate staff not liable to shuffling; a special subject to be added to entrance examination. The keeper to have some responsibility for the library. Dyce and Forster Libraries to be merged in Art Library; accounts to be properly kept and properly audited.

"(g.) *Board of Visitors*.—We strongly recommend the establishment of such a Board, and we define their status and functions.

"(h.) *Science Museum*.—Board to meet regularly. Keeper to be relieved of superintendence of artisans. Elimination and selection of exhibits to be carefully considered. Circulation should be developed. Museum of Fish Culture should be abolished.

"(j.) *Fire*.—We repeat what has already been reported to Parliament.

"(k.) *Buildings*.—Offices to go to Whitehall; Geological Museum to South Kensington. Rentals now paid by Department are excessive. Name of Museum should be changed. Separate buildings required for science and art collections.

"(l.) *Edinburgh, Dublin, and Bethnal Green Museums* all require attention. Edinburgh needs better exhibits, and its keeper should occupy a position of higher dignity and responsibility. The Museum should be free to the public on more than three days in the week. Dublin Museum is overcrowded, and insufficiently staffed. Its keeper should not be so much subordinated to the Director for Art. Bethnal Green requires special treatment. A library, lecture rooms, and possibly a school should be attached to it. Good objects should be sent there, and the rubbish should be removed. The expenditure on this Museum should be scrupulously inquired into.

"(m.) *Jermyn Street Museum*.—Should be moved to South Kensington. Art objects now shown there are inappropriate to a Museum of Geology, and should be transferred to the Art Museum.

"(n.) *Wales*.—A case has been made out for the establishment of a branch museum in Wales. If this be not conceded, care should be taken that the Principality shall not in future be neglected in the matter of circulation."

Motion made and Question, That the DRAFT REPORT proposed by the *Chairman* be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph—(The *Chairman*).—put, and agreed to.

#### Paragraph 1.

Amendment proposed in page 1, line 12, after the word "Committee," to add the words "and urged the importance of establishing the museums of the colleges which constitute the Universities, as museums for the Principality, in the same way as those of Edinburgh and Dublin serve Scotland and Ireland"—(Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*).—Question, That these words be there added,—put, and agreed to.

Other Amendments made.

Paragraph, as amended, agreed to.

Paragraph



## Paragraph 2.

An Amendment made.

Another Amendment proposed in page 7, line 7, after the word "adviser," to insert the words "Besides reorganising the Schools of Design and instituting a national scheme for promoting practical instruction in Drawing and Decorative Art generally, the Department of Practical Art commenced in this year the formation of the Collections of Art, the nucleus of the Art Museum at South Kensington, to 'illustrate the progress and highest excellence attained in manufacture, both as to material, workmanship, and decoration'"—(Mr. Bartley).—Question, That these words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Other Amendments made.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

## Paragraph 3.

An Amendment made.

Amendment proposed in line 5, after the word "years" at end of the last Amendment, to leave out the words "The art collections are renewed from time to time"—(Lord Balcarras).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph.—The Committee divided :

Ayes, 6.

Mr. Woodall.

Mr. Bartley.

Mr. Daly.

Dr. Farquharson.

Sir John Gorst.

Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Noes, 6.

Lord Balcarras.

Sir Mancherjee Bhowanagree.

Mr. John Burns.

Mr. Ernest Gray.

Sir Henry Howorth.

Mr. Kenrick.

Whereupon the Chairman declared himself with the Ayes.

Other Amendments made.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.Paragraph 4 amended and *agreed to*.

[Adjourned till Friday next at Twelve o'clock.]

Friday, 1st July, 1898.

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Bartley.

Mr. Daly.

Mr. Woodall.

Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Lord Balcarras.

Mr. Kenrick.

Mr. Yoxall.

Sir Mancherjee Bhowanagree.

Mr. Ernest Gray.

Sir John Gorst.

Mr. John Burns.

Sir Henry Howorth.

Dr. Farquharson.

Paragraphs 5—7 amended and *agreed to*.Paragraph 8 *agreed to*.Paragraphs 9 and 10 amended and *agreed to*.Paragraph 11 by leave *withdrawn*.

Paragraph 12.

Amendment proposed, in line 3, after the word "Museums," to insert the words "And their immediate bearing upon those educational functions of the Department of Science and Art which are carried out through the Royal College of Science and the Royal College of Art, South Kensington; at which institutions the most accomplished and advanced students from Provincial Schools of Science and Art, hold Studentships, Scholarships, and Exhibitions, which they have gained in Competitions conducted by the Department of Science and Art, and the technical institutions,



institutions, committees of county councils, and local organisations for promoting Science and Art instruction in the United Kingdom"—(Mr. Bartley).—Question, That these words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Other Amendments made.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 13, amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 14 by leave *withdrawn*.

Paragraph 15 *agreed to*.

Paragraph 16 amended and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 17 *agreed to*.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

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*Tuesday, 5th July 1898.*

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Bartley.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Paragraphs 18 and 19 *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 20—23 amended and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 24.

An Amendment made.

Amendment proposed, in page 15, after the word "pictures" at the end of last Amendment, to add the words "or when it is necessary to buy objects abroad for the museum"—(Lord Balcarras).—Question put, That those words be there added.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 4.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Sir Henry Howorth.

Noes, 5.

Mr. Woodall.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Paragraphs 24 and 25 amended, and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 26 *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 27—34 amended and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 35.

Amendment proposed, in page 16, line 2, after the word "provinces," to insert the words "Moreover, as indicated on page 5 of this Report, there is a constant succession of the most accomplished and advanced Art Students from the whole kingdom, who come to the Royal College of Art to pursue a course of instruction there, of which the study of branches of Art in the Museum is an essential part"—(Mr. Bartley).—Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 36—39 *postponed*.

Paragraph 39\* *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 40—43 *postponed*.

Paragraph 44.

An Amendment made.

Amendment proposed, in line 11, after the figures "5,000*l.*," to insert the words "This Museum which was opened in 1872, was admittedly established for the purpose of providing for



for the working population of the Metropolis, especially of the whole eastern district, adequate means of technical instruction, the want of which had at that time begun to be seriously felt, and official promises were repeatedly made for the formation of a School of Science and Arts, and a library in connection with it. These promises have never been put into effect, and no arrangement having ever been made to provide any sort of technical instruction, the object of the inception of the Museum has remained entirely unrealised, and justly caused grave discontent in the whole of the East End"—(Sir *Mancherjee Bhownagree*).—Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and agreed to.

#### Other Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed, in line 13, after the word "more," to leave out all the words to the end of the paragraph in order to insert the following words: "The modern collections are housed there, part of which is considered to have no teaching value. This museum should not be made the rubbish heap of South Kensington, and no object of vicious taste should be exhibited there (*e.g.*, the silver hansom cab), nor should admitted forgeries be allowed to remain (*e.g.*, Della Robbia). Bethnal Green Museum occupies a central site in East London. The population is exclusively artisan in character, and we consider that under the circumstances Bethnal Green is entitled to exceptional treatment. We cannot say that the museum as it stands is of adequate use to the community. The Bishop of Stepney called it a 'lost opportunity.' Another witness says it is regarded as a 'white elephant,' suitable for nothing beyond a playground and resting-place for children. Bethnal Green does not complain, because 'in the East End we are thankful for small mercies, and our expressions of regret have been somewhat suppressed lest we should lose anything.' Properly organised, this museum would become an effective agency for the improvement of technical instruction in the East End. It might be made into a municipal museum as suggested by the Government; if this be not done the Department must prevent the disappointment and waste resulting from the ill-equipped condition of the museum. There is a vacant space north of the present building. This site, or part of it, might be offered to the free library in Bethnal Green, which now occupies a very unsuitable position. The juxtaposition of museum and library would be of reciprocal advantage. A local advisory committee would prevent the repetition of errors which have been made, particularly with regard to the nature of exhibits. Proper lecture-rooms would be of great value, provided, of course, that the departmental staff were competent, and that the lectures, demonstrations, &c., were devoted to subjects in which the industrial classes of East London are interested. Mr. Clarke has organised two exhibitions of furniture and leather work, the staple trades of the district; but these were isolated efforts, insufficiently advertised, and not followed up. Bethnal Green requires special treatment. The worthless things should be sent away—the food collection, exhibiting, curiously enough, models of the daily rations of a convict, the stuffed birds, the vineyard, the forgeries, and the modern pottery, negresses, and so forth. The furniture should be replaced by examples which the local people might copy without risking their livelihood. The annual exhibitions held at Toynbee Hall show that the inhabitants of East London appreciate good exhibitions, especially when lectures are given about the exhibits. 70,000 visitors attend these exhibitions during the three weeks they are open. Bethnal Green might become a source of similar pleasure and instruction if our suggestions are carried out"—(Lord *Balcarras*).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Proposed Report,—put, and *negatived*.

Question proposed, That those words be there inserted.

Amendments made to the proposed Amendment.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

*Friday, 8th July 1898.*

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Bartley.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Dr. Farquharson.

Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Daly.

Paragraph 44 further considered.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, line 7, after the word "treatment," to leave out the words "We cannot say that the museum as it stands is"—(Mr. *Bartley*).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment.

The



The Committee divided :

Ayes, 7.

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Kenrick.

Noes, 5.

Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, after the word "is" in line 7, to insert the words "used with the maximum of advantage to the surrounding community owing partly to local apathy, partly to the character of the ordinary exhibits"—(Mr. Ernest Gray).—Question put, That those words be there inserted.—The Committee divided :

Ayes, 6.

Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Noes, 7.

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 8, after the word "community," to insert the words "chiefly owing to the apathy of the locality and their refusal to supplement the museum by adopting any of the Library or other Educational Rating Acts in the district"—(Mr. Bartley).—Question put, That those words be there inserted.—The Committee divided :

Ayes, 4.

Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Noes, 9.

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 8, to leave out all the words from "another witness" to the word "anything," in line 11—(Mr. Bartley).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment.—The Committee divided :

Ayes, 10.

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes, 3.

Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Sir John Gorst.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment in line 15, to leave out from the words "There is a vacant space," to the word "advantage," in line 18—(Mr. Bartley).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment.—The Committee divided :

Ayes, 10.

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes, 3.

Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Sir John Gorst.

Another



Another Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 18, to leave out the words from "a local advisory" to the word "exhibits" in line 19—(Mr. *Bartley*).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 11.

Mr. Woodall.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes, 2.

Mr. Bartley.  
Sir John Gorst.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, to leave out all the words from the word "open" in line 30 to the end of the proposed Amendment, in order to insert the words "The testimony of the Bishop of Stepney that a change for the better 'had come over the management of the Museum since Mr. Parkinson had been in charge' proves that the necessity exists for considerable improvement in the directions we indicate, and that a system of lectures, and the location of the Public Library, and the formation of an Advisory Local Committee, might at once be sanctioned with advantage"—(Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*).—Question proposed, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment.—Amendment by leave *withdrawn*.

Question put, That the Amendment, as amended, be there inserted.—(Lord *Balcarras*).—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 10.

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes, 3.

Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Sir John Gorst.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 45 amended and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 46.

Question put, That this paragraph stand part of the Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 5.

Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Noes, 8.

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Paragraphs 47 and 48 by leave *withdrawn*.

Paragraphs 49—52 *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:—

"We are convinced that the system of presenting the Museum Estimates requires consideration. We understand that the Treasury is responsible for the existing practice. In the first place there should be mainly distinction between the estimate for the museums and the estimate for the Department proper. Intimate though the connection between the two branches may be, their respective cost should undoubtedly be marked with greater precision. It is now quite impossible to separate the cost of the Museum from that of the Department. Until recently the Museum Vote was divided into a number of sub-heads, showing the various sums allotted to the different purchase branches of the museum, *e.g.*, library, pictures, reproductions, art museum, &c. This method has now been abandoned in favour of the 'grant in aid' system, which is the necessary outcome of a concession made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer that unexpended balances need not be surrendered at the end of the financial year. The separate items

are

Donnelly, I., 880.

Festing, I., 2304

Donnelly, I., 885.



Appendix, I.,  
No. 3.

Donnelly, I., 887.

Gorst, I., 5312.

Donnelly, I., 893.

Donnelly, I., 894.

Weale, I., 6055.

Spring Rice,  
II., 2290, &c.

Donnelly,  
II., 454, &c.

Lobb, II., 2440.

Spring Rice,  
II., 2266.

Clarke.

Donnelly,  
II., 208.

Spring Rice,  
II., 2276.

Donnelly,  
II., 469.

are now omitted, a single sum covering all the purchase votes. There is some obscurity as to the need of this concession in view of the fact that during the last 10 years (that is prior to its introduction), South Kensington, so far from surrendering unspent money, was able to spend more than 900*l.* in excess of its purchase grant; thus the Museum did not suffer by the old system, and in point of fact the 'grant in aid' system by which the separate items were merged was not considered necessary to justify the transference of money from one sub-head to another. On the other hand the new system makes it impossible to tell from the estimate how much is voted for the picture gallery, for the library, or for the art museum; for no specific sum is allotted to any particular service. The allocation is presumably vested in my Lords and the secretary, and it is for them to determine how much or how little shall be assigned to the different branches of the Museum. Formerly the secretary used to consult the keepers through the director as to the financial needs of their departments, though Mr. Weale, Keeper of the Art Library, denied that he had ever been consulted. In future we imagine that it will be superfluous to consult the keepers if no stated sum will be allotted to meet their requirements.

"It is with regard to the H Votes that the Estimates are most confusing and most confused. These votes deal with the lower staff, the police, materials, heating, lighting, &c. In the first place, no statement is given as to the numbers employed: H<sup>3</sup>, for instance, has about 26,000*l.* for 'attendants, messengers, repairers, labellers, printers, store assistants, cleaners, &c.' No detail is given except that the 26,000*l.* is nominally sub-divided for the administration, South Kensington, the two colleges, stores, and Bethnal Green. We say nominally sub-divided because the fact that Bethnal Green has 985*l.* allotted to it does not necessarily mean that this sum, or anything approaching it, is spent there. So long as the Auditor and Controller General is satisfied that the aggregate of the items composing H<sup>3</sup> has not been exceeded, he does not inquire into the expenditure of the component items. That is to say, he does not know whether the 985*l.* voted for Bethnal Green has been spent there, since the Department is at liberty to transfer this sum to any other branch of H<sup>3</sup>, provided that the total of 26,000*l.* be not exceeded. This method applies to all the H votes, and they are all subject to the same criticism. Moreover, these votes overlap; H<sup>6</sup> is for 'artisans, cleaners, labourers, &c.' This overlaps with H<sup>3</sup>, to which we have just alluded, and in so far as the wages under H<sup>6</sup> are for 'heating, lighting, and precautions against fire,' there is a further overlapping with H<sup>7</sup>, under which a sum of 9,655*l.* is provided for 'heating, lighting and precautions against fire.' Under H<sup>5</sup> 5,600*l.* is voted for 'furniture, materials, &c., and fitting up objects for exhibition.' The great bulk of this is for materials such as wood, locks, hinges, glass, &c., for the show cases; the expense of making them up is met by the artisan vote under H<sup>6</sup>. It appears to some members of the Committee and to one of our witnesses that the allocation of the component sums is not adhered to in the manner intended by Parliament and contemplated by the Treasury. During the last ten years Bethnal Green Museum has had 6,800*l.* voted for its 'furniture, materials, &c., and fitting up objects for exhibition.' An undetermined sum has also been voted for the carpenters employed in utilising this material. We are at a loss to explain this enormous sum in view of the smallness of Bethnal Green Museum and the absence of large or expensive cases in it. The Appropriation Account does not deal with the items composing H<sup>5</sup>, and we therefore suggest a stringent inquiry into the practice, especially in view of the fact that notwithstanding the liberal sums voted by Parliament, Bethnal Green has been obliged to borrow show cases from South Kensington. The items composing the H votes appear to be a guide to Parliament when discussing the Estimates, but not being mandatory upon the Department (and as we conclude, being frequently disregarded), they are misleading, and to that extent mischievous. The H votes are nine in number; they are distinct entities and are only audited in bulk, no attention being paid to their constituent items. These votes amount in round figures to the following sums: 2,700*l.*, 11,000*l.*, 26,000*l.*, 11,900*l.*, 5,600*l.*, 15,800*l.*, 9,600*l.*, 6,600*l.*, 3,900*l.*; we have already pointed out the lack of detail. On turning to the British Museum estimates, a service analogous in many ways to South Kensington, we find everything stated with precision and clearness. There is no reduplication of votes; they are concentrated, not scattered over a number of sub-heads, and the various services are kept distinct. But their most valuable feature is the fact that the Estimate shows at a glance the number of the higher and lower staff, and the salary or wages paid to every individual employed. The secretary of the Science and Art Department is satisfied with the existing practice, though we gathered that the Treasury is prepared to give our suggestions a careful consideration. We do not ask that South Kensington finance should be subjected to vexatious and excessive detail. The British Museum plan is quite adequate to ensure accurate and specific information for Parliament. If possible, it would be well to make the annual report of the Department correspond more closely with the Estimates; that is to say, that the sums voted in the Estimates should be accounted for specifically in the annual report, although there is a necessary divergence between them in point of date, one extending over the calendar the other over the financial year. We may illustrate our meaning by giving an example: Between 1st January 1892 and 31st December 1896, five years, the Department spent 8,256*l.* upon 'water colour and other drawings, &c.' (see tabular appendix in the annual reports). During the five years between 31st March 1892 and 31st March 1897, 4,600*l.* was voted in the Estimates for 'historical collection of oil and water colours.' It will be observed that the periods are not exactly the same, there being three months difference; but this cannot account for the variance between 4,600*l.* voted and 8,256*l.* spent. The explanation given is scarcely adequate, unless the word '&c.' appended to 'water colours and other drawings' be considered a sufficient explanation for an expenditure exceeding receipts by nearly 50 per cent., a separate vote being already taken for reproduction (F. 3 in old estimates). We lay great stress upon the urgent need for reforming the manner in which estimates are presented to Parliament and audited by the Controller General. —(Lord *Balcarras*.)

Amendment



Question proposed, That the proposed new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph, line 2, to leave out the words "we understand that the Treasury is"—(Sir John Gorst).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 10  
Mr. Woodall.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes, 2.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Sir John Gorst.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph, after the word "votes," in line 12, to insert the words "The Committee approve of the system and recognise the advantages resulting from the power to expend the grant for purchases upon either library, pictures, reproductions, art museum, or such other objects as may at the time be most desirable, but the appropriation account should clearly show the amounts which have been expended in the several departments"—(Mr. Ernest Gray).—Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph, to leave out all the words from "formerly" in line 21 to the word "requirements" in line 24, both inclusive.—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 4.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Sir Henry Howorth.

Noes, 8.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.

Tuesday, 12th July 1898.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. John Burns.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Dr. Farquharson.

Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Further Amendments made to proposed new paragraph.

Question put, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 6.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

No, 1.  
Mr. Bartley.

Another



Clarke, I., 2984.  
" 3884.  
4020. 3729.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report: "Many of the reforms we advocate are rendered necessary by faulty and defective organization, though we readily admit that improvements have been made since the appointment of this Committee. There is an absence of definite rules which are imperative for the proper conduct of a museum; on the other hand, there are regulations which have been allowed to fall into desuetude, while others which remain hamper the discretion of responsible officers. Rules should be either strictly enforced or frankly rescinded; in no case should they be 'left in abeyance'"—(Lord *Balcarres*).—Question put, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 5.

Lord *Balcarres*.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Noes, 2.

Dr. Farquharson  
Mr. Woodall.

Q. 6467, Civil  
Service Inquiry,  
1875.  
Donnelly, 999  
" 994.  
" 991.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report: "As to the position of higher officials, about which we have had much evidence, we consider that the secretary should be merely accounting and corresponding officer. As Mr. Norman Macleod (assistant secretary of the Department) stated, 'the high officers at South Kensington are not necessarily acquainted with science and art beyond having a general acquaintance with the subject.' The secretary should have no control as regards the authenticity and the artistic merit of objects offered to the museum. The 'common-sense' system of purchase is eminently unsatisfactory, and the museum has already suffered from this system. The secretary should not have the responsibility of sanctioning bidding at auctions, a function which properly appertains to the expert; neither should the secretary or any other official be allowed to sell objects to the museum."—(Lord *Balcarres*.)

Question proposed, That the proposed new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Amendment proposed, in line 6, of the proposed new paragraph, to leave out from the words "The common-sense" to the word "system" in line 7, both inclusive—(Dr. *Farquharson*).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 4.

Lord *Balcarres*.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Sir Henry Howorth.

Noes, 4.

Mr. Woodall.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Ernest Gray  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Whereupon the Chairman declared himself with the Noes.

Another Amendment proposed, in line 7, of the proposed new paragraph, to leave out from the words "The secretary" to the word "expert" in line 8, in order to insert the words "The responsibility of selecting and purchasing objects is a function which properly appertains under the authority of my Lords to the Director of the Museum"—(Mr. *Woodall*).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph,—put, and *negatived*.

Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, after the words "Director of the Museum," at the end of the last amendment, to add the words "My Lords having of course the advantage of inviting the opinion of the Director of Art and of such referees as they may desire to consult"—(Mr. *Woodall*).—Question, That those words be there added,—put, and *agreed to*.

Question, That the paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

#### "THE DIRECTOR FOR ART.

"The work of this official is divided between the museum and the art education of the country. We consider it difficult for one official to combine the knowledge requisite for both these spheres of labour, and impossible for him to have enough time to occupy the dual position with success. At present the Director for Art is practically head of the Art Museum; no object of importance can be bought without his sanction; the purchases made by Dublin, Bethnal Green, and Edinburgh are subject to his control, and occasionally he has gone abroad on purchasing missions, the province of the Director or Keeper of the Museum. Moreover, he has charge of the large collection of water-colour drawings and is responsible for the annual grant for additions to this section. We may add that the Director for Art was unable to inform the Committee whether the Raphael cartoons, the most valuable series of Italian paintings in the United Kingdom, were in his charge or in that of Mr. Clarke, Director of the Museum. The Director for Art also buys drawings out of the Art Library Vote, although the keeper of that library may protest that their acquisition would be useless to the students. These purchasing functions should be confined to the museum director and keeper, who possess the expert knowledge so necessary in view of the skilful forgery and sophistication of art

Appendix II.  
No. 5.  
Smith 3322.

Armstrong 5244.

Weale 6072.



art objects. The Director for Art should be limited to supervising the art schools and classes. These are increasing annually, and if they are to be effectively guided by the Director for Art, it will be necessary to relieve this official of his extensive functions in connection with the four museums. His position in relation to the Director of the Art Museum should be assimilated to that of the Director for Science to the Director of the Science Museum. The Director for Science never interferes in purchasing for the science museum. His work is exclusively educational. Festing, I., 2357.

#### "THE DIRECTOR OF THE ART MUSEUM.

"We have already indicated that this official should be the purchasing authority, not subject to control other than that of a financial and administrative character. He should be an expert in one or more classes of art; Subordinate officers should also be trained as experts. This director should have sole responsibility for purchase, having consulted the keeper of the section to which the proposed acquisition would belong."—(Lord *Balcarres*.) Armstrong, I., 5697.  
Clarke, I., 3397.

#### Amendments made.

Amendment proposed in line 2 of the proposed new paragraph, to leave out the words from the word 'we' to the word 'success' in line 3, both inclusive — (Dr. *Farquharson*). — Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph. — The Committee divided :

Ayes, 8.

Lord Balcarres.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes, 2.

Mr. Woodall.  
Dr. Farquharson.

Another Amendment proposed, in line 21 of the proposed new paragraph, after the word "Museum," to insert the words "This official should continue to devote his whole time to the Civil Service and his administrative work"—(Lord *Balcarres*).—Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 53—60 (7), *postponed*.

Paragraph 60 (8).

Amendment proposed, in line 1, to leave out from the words "the method of" to the word "described," in line 2, in order to insert the words "the appointment and interchange of officials"—(Mr. *Ernest Gray*).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph,—put, and *negatived*.

Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed in line 7, after the words "South Kensington," to insert the following words: "But it is obvious that the museum has suffered from a lack of experts. The secretary of the department told the Committee that unless the South Kensington staff be trebled or quadrupled, it is not possible to have specialists. With this opinion we entirely disagree. Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, the head official of the British Museum, pointed out that "expertise" is not necessarily gained by having a large staff, but that it can be, and at the British Museum is, gained by a careful selection of young men for the subordinate posts, and having selected them, limiting their work to a single department of art or archaeology. Thus in the coin and medal department, out of a total staff of five, two officials are experts of international repute, and the remainder are also considered experts. Similarly, in the large department of prints and drawings, the officials possess the highest expert knowledge. This is attributed by Sir Edward Maunde Thompson to the fact that young men are placed in a department and remain working there: they are not moved from one branch of work to another. At South Kensington this process of shuffling is frequent. An official cannot be 'moved from the Art Library to the Art Museum'; but he can be (and frequently is) moved from the custody of art objects to the custody of art books. We are strongly of opinion that this shuffling of officials is detrimental to the public service. Thus one junior assistant has served in Circulation, Art Library and India Museum; and, of course, has become an 'all round man.' Another passed from the accounts division into the India Museum, whence he was transferred to the Art Library. It is almost impossible for the 'all round man' to become an expert in archæology, bibliography, or art. We must, however, add that Mr. Clarke has recently done his utmost to bring about this desirable reform by subdividing the museum into sections, in which it is proposed to specialise as much as possible. But this system is at present subject to rescision. It should receive official sanction, and be made a permanent feature of museum administration. We may add that Mr. Skinner, the keeper of the museum, concurs in Mr. Clarke's proposal"—(Mr. *Ernest Gray*).—Question proposed, That those words be there inserted. Donnelly, I., 1313.  
Thompson, I., 6452.  
Thompson, I., 6453.  
Donnelly, I., 973.  
Donnelly, I., 975.  
Donnelly, I., 1041.  
Weale 7774.  
Cf. 1311, 6102.  
Weale, I., 7069.

II., 1563.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.



Friday, 15th July 1898.

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Woodall.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Lord Balcarrès.  
Mr. Burns.

Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Kenwick.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Sir Henry Howorth.

Amendments made to proposed Amendment.

Another Amendment proposed in line 15, to leave out all the words from the word "we" to the word "service," both inclusive.—(Mr. Woodall.)

Amendment by leave *withdrawn*.

Other Amendments made.

Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, after the word "proposal" at the end of the last Amendment, to insert the following words:—

Maunde  
Thompson 6638.

Donnelly, I., 68.

"These considerations lead us to the question of the admission of new officials, their examination, and the probationary system. At the British Museum examinations are held in the ordinary manner, but the trustees can add one or more special subjects to which the candidates are required to qualify; this is in order to ensure the competence of the new officers for the particular sections in which they will ultimately work. The results have been satisfactory. At South Kensington no such system prevails. The examination for a junior-assistantship is identical for all candidates, whether their work will be to look after Saracenic art, to catalogue books, to describe furniture and textiles, or to superintend circulation of objects to provincial museums and schools. It is not surprising that South Kensington should be obliged to rely largely upon paid experts and referees to advise upon questions about which their own officials should be competent to give a skilled opinion. We observe that the principle of special examination is already conceded in one case, for the Jermyn Street Museum. This practice should be extended to South Kensington. Mr. Clarke's division of the museum into six sections having made its application possible."—(Lord Balcarrès.)

Amendments made.

Question, That these words, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, after the word "possible," at the end of the last Amendment, to insert the following words:—

"It is obvious that the South Kensington system fails to secure the services of the most efficient men who present themselves for examination. We would suggest:

"(1.) That no examination should be held unless there be a minimum number of candidates, this being the practice at the British Museum.

Courthope,  
II., 2228.

"(2.) No member or paid official of the Science and Art Department should be employed as examiner. When asked whether such a condition had arisen, the First Civil Service Commissioner stated that the question was not one which it would be proper for him to answer.

Donnelly,  
I., 1077.  
Weale, I., 6069.  
Skinner,  
II., 1504.

Courthope,  
II., 2235.

Maunde Thomp-  
son I., 6440.

"With regard to probationary reports made about officials after their first year's service, the Committee was informed by the secretary that a report on the qualifications of all new officials is regularly sent to the Civil Service Commissioners. Mr. Weale and Mr. Skinner never having made such reports, we enquired about the subject of Mr. Courthope. He told us that this regulation was abolished in 1871. We recommend its re-enactment. It is immaterial whether the report be sent to My Lords or to the Civil Service Commissioners; but the continuance of the official after the probationary period should be conditional upon this report being received, minuted by the keeper of the section in which the official works. At the British Museum one year was found insufficient, and the probationary period is now two years."—(Lord Balcarrès.)

Question proposed, That those words be there inserted.

Amendment



Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, to leave out all the words from the words "it is obvious" in line 1, to the word "examination" in line 2, both inclusive, in order to insert the words, "The system under which vacancies occurring very shortly after a Civil Service competitive examination are filled by the appointment of candidates, who, though lower in the list, have attained the minimum or more than the minimum of marks qualifying for appointment, seems to your Committee of doubtful experience as liable to arouse suspicion of the absolute fairness of the appointment"—(Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment,—put, and *negatived*.

Question, That these words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, line 5, to leave out all the words from the words "no member" to the word "answer," in line 8, both inclusive—(Dr. *Farquharson*).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 6.

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.

Noes, 2.

Mr. Woodall.  
Dr. Farquharson.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 13, to leave out the words "its re-enactment," in order to insert the words "that such reports be invariably made"—(Mr. *Ernest Gray*).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment—put, and *negatived*.—Question, That these words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment, in line 14, after the word "Commissioners" to insert the words "but it should be always submitted to the person reported upon, who should have the right of appeal"—(Mr. *Ernest Gray*).—Question, That these words be there inserted, put,—and *agreed to*.

Question put, That paragraph 60 (8), as amended, stand part of the proposed Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 5.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.

Noes, 3.

Mr. Woodall.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Dr. Farquharson.

Paragraph 61 (9).

Amendment proposed, at the end of the paragraph, to insert the words:

"The bulk of these are, of course, attendants, assistants, and members of the subordinate staff. It is most desirable that proper record should be kept of their appointment. The establishment list is printed in Appendix No. 17 (Vol. 1), where it will be seen that no record can be quoted of the appointments of a considerable number of men made in 1891, 1893, 1895, and even in 1896. Such laxity should be avoided in the future; it has no doubt contributed to the charges of nepotism brought against the Science and Art Department. We observe that 160 persons are inter-related out of the staff of 774 persons, that is, nearly 20 per cent. (or 9½ per cent. if taken in groups, a misleading form of calculation)."—(Lord *Balcarras*).—Question put, That those words be there inserted.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 6.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Kenrick.

Noes, 4.

Mr. Woodall.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Question, That paragraph 61 (9), as amended, stand part of the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 62.

Amendment proposed, in line 1, to leave out all the words from the words "under these circumstances" to the word "favouritism," in line 2, both inclusive—(Mr. *Ernest Gray*).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 4.

Mr. Woodall.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Noes, 6.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Kenrick.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Another



Festing 2434.

Festing 2440.

Festing 2405.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report: "We think that the attendants employed in the Museum Galleries might, with advantage, wear a distinctive uniform, such as that worn by the attendants in the Dublin Museum. As regards police, their number will doubtless be reduced as soon as proper buildings are erected at South Kensington; but we cannot recommend any diminution of the force at present; in fact it is doubtful whether the night patrol is adequate, especially in the western galleries. The Committee has received no evidence showing cause for maintaining the military garrison at South Kensington Museum. The site has no strategic value, and the detachment of Royal Engineers, efficient though it may be, is not necessary for the art and science service of the country. The sappers might be useful in case of fire but there is no reason why the Metropolitan Fire Brigade should not have the responsibility here, as much as at the Home Office, the British Museum, or the Palace of Westminster. In fact it is a source of danger that the sappers should have nominal and primary charge of the buildings so far as fire precautions are concerned, since the fire brigade would be held responsible for dealing with any outbreak of a serious character. The argument for removing the barracks is strengthened by the decision of Her Majesty's Government that no residences shall be maintained within the Museum precincts. The sappers need not be in barracks until 11 p.m. They are allowed to bring in their friends; they have their own canteen and manage their own cooking arrangements; this does not conduce to immunity from the risk of fire; and as there is no communication between the Museum and the barracks (although the buildings are contiguous) it is quite possible that the force from the neighbouring fire station would, in the event of an outbreak, reach the western galleries more quickly than the Engineers. These sappers are now largely employed by the department as artisans. Quite apart from the propriety of sappers being thus employed—it is a question for the War Office rather than for this Committee—we are strongly of opinion that it is desirable to replace them by civilians. We do not offer any observations about the appointment of Royal Engineer officers for the higher posts in the Science and Art Department; such appointments are frequently made. At present the head officials of Dublin, South Kensington, and Edinburgh, are drawn from the service; several others preside over departments at South Kensington, and until recently a large number were employed as the examiners and inspectors."—(Lord *Balcarres*.)

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph, after the word "galleries," in line 6, to leave out from the words "The Committee" to the word "Museum," in line 7, both inclusive, in order to insert the words "owing to historical causes certain work of the Museum has been hitherto carried on by the Royal Engineers"—(Sir *Humphreys-Owen*).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment,—put, and *negatived*.

Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph, line 9, to leave out the words "might be useful in case of fire," in order to insert the words "have had the duty of protecting the Museum against outbreaks of fire"—(Mr. *Ernest Gray*).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment,—put, and *negatived*.

Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Other Amendments made.

Question put,—That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 6.

Lord *Balcarres*.  
Mr. *John Burns*.  
Mr. *Ernest Gray*.  
Sir *Henry Howorth*.  
Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*.  
Mr. *Kenrick*.

Noes, 3.

Mr. *Woodall*.  
Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*.  
Dr. *Farquharson*.

[Adjourned to Tuesday next, at Twelve o'clock.]



*Tuesday, 19th July, 1898.*

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Farquharson.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. Daly.

Mr. Kenwick.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Yoxall.  
Sir John Gorst.

Another Amendment proposed, "That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report": "Having dealt with the subordinate staff, sappers, &c., we think it well to point out that the 'Works Department' of South Kensington seems to be organised upon a faulty basis. General Festing, R.E., Director of the Science Museum, besides the important functions connected with that post, is in charge of the heating, lighting, cleaning, plumbing, stoking, carpentering, case making, glazing, &c., &c. Structural alterations and repairs are carried out by Her Majesty's Office of Works, by which upwards of 20,000*l.* is to be spent during 1898-99, though General Festing is occasionally obliged to employ bricklayers for repairing his furnaces and boilers. It appears to us that a clerk of the works should be responsible for these operations. There can be no doubt that a large part of General Festing's time is occupied with the control of these artisans and the direction of their labours. Without suggesting that this work is derogatory to the high position held by General Festing, we feel bound to say that the maintenance and development of the Science Museum requires the undivided attention of its director; and this director could be relieved of the heavy burden now placed upon him by appointing a skilled clerk of works at 3*l.* or 4*l.* a week. In the event of our suggestion proving unacceptable to the Treasury, we may point out that the alternative system, now in vogue at the British Museum, would be almost as effective. None of the cases, for instance, are made at the museum, an economy of space, supervision, and in all probability of cost. Before leaving this question we would add that the system of keeping monthly and weekly diaries, which has now 'fallen into disuse,' should be re-established. This would be of especial benefit in the works division of South Kensington and other branches in which there are a number of temporary employes."—(Lord Balcarras.)

Festing, I., 219  
&c.

Maunde Thomp-  
son I., 6302.

Clarke, I., 3617.

Donnelly,  
I., 1162.

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"The Dublin Museum has the best buildings of any belonging to the Science and Art Department. The space, however, is very inadequate. The national library will shortly have to be enlarged, and it is already proposed to secure land whereon to build the new college of science. The Celtic collection is by far the most important in the world, and since the appointment of this Committee, steps have been taken to remedy the strange architectural error by which a gallery with no rooms above it was not provided with sky lighting. Three extra rooms are to be added for the proper display of this collection. Lecture rooms should also be added if funds permit. There is no need for large sums to be spent on them, as they will not be required for big audiences, but they would add materially to the educational powers of the museum.

Plunkett,  
I., 4673.  
Graves II., 1978

Plunkett, 4,400.

Plunkett,  
II., 2176.

"The Director of the Dublin Museum occupies the same relation to the Department as does the Director at Edinburgh. The remarks we have already made on this subject apply equally to the Dublin Director, who should be allowed initiative and responsibility. The salary of the keeper of the Celtic antiquities should be raised; the late keeper only having received 257*l.* annually. This sum is not adequate remuneration for a first-class archæologist who will give all his time to the work. The collection is of untold value, containing unique objects which cannot be matched in any other museum at home or abroad. Many of them are not fully described, while others have no descriptive label whatever. This cataloguing should be pressed forward; meanwhile the old catalogues, made for the Royal Irish Academy, should be cut up and the labels be appended to the objects. The Natural History staff should be increased, and a technical assistant should be added to the Botanical staff. Enquiry should also be made into the statement that an insufficient number of police is employed.

Plunkett,  
I., 4401.

Plunkett,  
I., 4462.

Plunkett,  
I., 4463.  
Plunkett,  
I., 4786.

Graves II., 2069.

Plunkett,  
I., 4431.

Graves, II., 1890.

Graves, II., 2079.

"Dublin has already got a board of visitors. We think that they should meet more regularly, keeping minutes of their proceedings. They should have more initiative, and their views upon elimination of unsuitable objects should be requested. We think they might consider the advisability of holding special exhibitions, the last of which was held in 1885. The subject of co-operation with other educational bodies is one upon which their advice would be valuable. A closer connection with the technical instruction classes now held in Dublin should be brought about; and so far as the country is concerned, the greatest care should be taken by the Department as well as by Dublin Museum itself, to direct the development of technical art training into proper channels. The art industries of Ireland are dormant; but there is no reason why carving in wood and stone, furniture, lace-making, and silver work should not regain the high standing of former years. The circulation of carefully selected specimens from South Kensington should be encouraged as much as possible. Other industries of a more commercial character, weaving, for instance, and spinning



spinning, would also be benefited, if the craftsmen could have good examples of textiles to copy."—(Lord *Balcarres*.)

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed, in line 9 of the proposed new paragraph, after the word "Museum," to insert the words "We may add that the sum granted by the Treasury for the extension of the National Library is alleged to be insufficient in respect of the department for issuing books and newspapers, &c."—(Lord *Balcarres*).—Question, that those words be there inserted,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, in line 20 of the proposed new paragraph, after the words "Botanical Staff," to insert the words:—

"Your Committee have, at the request of the Lords of the Treasury, considered a communication, under the date of 19th February 1897, from the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education, expressing the opinion that Professor Johnson, of the Dublin Museum of Science and Art, should be employed for 150 days instead of 70 days, and that his salary should be increased by 100*l.* annually. The reason given for this change is the transfer of the collection of fossil plants from the Palæontological to the Botanical Department, and the consequent addition to the duties of the Professor. Your Committee are of opinion that these changes ought to be made. They recognise the necessity of developing economic botany in Ireland, and concur in the view of the Visitors, that a well-equipped herbarium is a necessity. The existence of an herbarium at Kew, or elsewhere in Great Britain, is no reason why Dublin should not possess a collection to meet the requirements of Ireland, which is mainly an agricultural country; and your Committee strongly support the proposal that more of Professor Johnson's time, with an additional salary, be devoted to the care and management of collections which will render valuable assistance to the improvement of Irish agriculture."—(*The Chairman*.)

Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and agreed to.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

Smith, I., 3269. "It appears to us that the Edinburgh Museum suffers from the centralising tendency of South Kensington. We find that the director has no right to spend more than 20*l.* without obtaining permission of the Director for Art in London; and it is the Director for Art who settles whether an object offered for purchase shall go before that Board or not. This is objectionable, because the art expert, the Director of the Museum, is not consulted; while the teaching expert, the Director for Art, has the controlling voice in matters of purchase. The head of the Edinburgh Department should be allowed greater initiative; and it must be remembered that the cost of this restriction is considerable, as objects are constantly sent about in order to obtain approval of the Director for Art. Again, the Edinburgh Museum ought to share the work of distributing loans among the Scottish Museums and art schools, but this is also exclusively managed from London."—(Lord *Balcarres*.)

Smith, 3326. Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph after the word "London" in line 10, to insert the words, "An urgent want for the Museum of Science and Art in Edinburgh is electric light instead of gas. This can now be cheaply and easily procured from the excellent public supply provided by the Corporation."—(Dr. *Farquharson*.)

Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and agreed to.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

Smith, I., 3434. "As to the nature of objects shown in Edinburgh, we think that a better class of exhibits should be sent from South Kensington; there are some admirable casts in the Edinburgh Museum, but the number of good originals is singularly small. There are no water-colour drawings or pictures. The collection at the London Museum is so overcrowded that a transfer would be of mutual advantage. On the other hand, the museum contains a number of articles which might be advantageously removed. The loan of the Gutta-Percha Company, London, is obviously an advertisement. Pen trays, photographs, frames, &c., likewise the exhibit of modern boots and shoes of a very inferior type. These should be removed, and the valuable examples of tiles, now in a dark place, should be substituted for them. The ethnographic photographs of naked Tasmanians should be placed in the library and be given out to students when required. The collection of living fish, frogs, &c., is unnecessary. There is no periodical stock-taking; this should not be omitted. We see no reason why the public should have to pay for admission on three days in the week."—(Lord *Balcarres*.)

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

Amendment



Amendment proposed, in line 5 of the proposed new paragraph, to leave out all the words from "on the other hand" to the word "removed" in line 6, both inclusive—(Dr. Farquharson).—Question put,—That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 5.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.

Noes, 2.

Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Woodall.

Another Amendment proposed, in line 6, to leave out all the words from "the loan of" to the words "for them" in line 9, both inclusive—(Dr. Farquharson).—Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 5.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.

Noes, 2.

Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Woodall.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"We have already recommended the removal of the collection at Jermyn Street to South Kensington. This museum also contains objects which are only remotely connected with British Geology, such as wall papers from Pekin, Greek vases, Egyptian idols, Limoges enamels, Perchian china, &c. Those objects which have any artistic merit should be transferred to the art department at South Kensington, for they are not appreciated at Jermyn Street, where the shelves are very crowded. Many specimens are not labelled, and are placed too high on the walls to be seen properly. Some of these art objects have already been lent to private exhibitions, *e.g.*, enamels to the Burlington Fine Arts Club. The chief art collection in the Geological Museum is the unrivalled collection of British pottery. The director of the Museum holds that the technological interest of this pottery is far greater than its artistic interest. To this we must respectfully demur. The technological side of British pottery can be illustrated by fragments as well as by complete specimens—better indeed, for the fragments display the clay and component parts, while the complete specimen shows nothing but the surface and glaze. This collection should also be moved to the Central Museum, leaving some examples as specimens. Care should be taken to limit the scope of Jermyn Street. It is argued that everything in which mineral substances are used can be appropriately placed in the museum. This means that every object at South Kensington, excluding purely vegetable products such as textiles and wood carving, together with ivories and certain paintings, would be appropriate to Jermyn Street. The British Geological Museum should exhibit British geological specimens. Ample accommodation for British pottery and foreign objects of art can be found elsewhere."—(Lord Balcarras.)

Geikie, I., 5412.

Geikie, I., 5428.

Geikie, I., 5429.

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph, in line 10, to leave out the words "To this we most respectfully demur"—(Lord Balcarras).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph,—put, and *negatived*.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"We have heard evidence from Wales. Without making any definite recommendation we are of opinion that a good case has been made out for the establishment of a Science and Art Museum in the principality. It is, of course, largely a question of money, but in the event of the Bethnal Green Museum being removed from the control of the Department, we think that the moneys so saved might be devoted advantageously to a museum in Wales. A delicate point arises as to the town in which the museum should be placed, but our witnesses said that the problem could be solved if any tangible proposal to create a museum were put forward. The population of South Wales is increasing rapidly, and the museum would be most useful in one of the large towns on the south coast. This matter would have to be settled by a Departmental Committee unbiassed in favour of any particular locality. Failing the establishment of such a museum, the circulation department should take precautions to prevent the continuance of what has undoubtedly been neglect of Wales in the immediate past."—(Lord Balcarras.)

Roberts, II., 2866.

Dobbie, II., 2935.

Dobbie, II., 2953.

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph, line 2, to leave out all the words after the



word "for," to insert the words "Extending the advantages of Science and Art Collections to the Principality"—(Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph—put, and *negatived*.—Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph, line 5, after the word "Museum," to insert the word "purposes"—(Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*).—Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph, line 7, after the word "forward," to insert the words "Both witnesses, however, were strongly disposed to advocate the recognition of the University of Wales (which is a Federation of the three University Colleges of Aberystwyth, Bangor, and Cardiff) as being the Educational Capital of Wales"—(Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*).—Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Dobbie, 2953.  
Roberts, 2881.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph, line 8, to leave out the words "South Wales," in order to insert the words, "the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth"—(Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*).—Question, That the words "South Wales" stand part of the proposed new paragraph,—put, and *negatived*. Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph, to leave out all the words from the word "Museum" in line 8, to the words "South Coast" in line 9, in order to insert the words "situation of the University College of South Wales at Cardiff would make its museum fitted to supply the needs of South Wales"—(Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*).—Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph,—put, and *negatived*. Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report :

Spencer, I.,  
5002.

Donnelly, I.,  
2004, &c.

Donnelly, I.,  
2031.

Gorst, II., 726.

"A reform of the system of board meetings is still more imperative. It used to be the custom to hold these meetings fortnightly or weekly. They were attended by either the Lord President or the Vice-President of the Council, and by six or seven of the high officials of the Department. Educational questions were predominant, and the Museum question was proportionately small. These Board meetings have been discontinued during the last three years. It is probably impossible for the Parliamentary chiefs of the Department to find time to attend Board meetings when occupied with important legislation; but we consider something of the kind to be none the less wanted, and later on in our Report we shall suggest the appointment of a Board of Visitors, who will be able to advise the Lord President on administrative and artistic questions, without, of course, being vested with any executive privileges."—(Lord *Balcarres*.)

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report :

Clarke, I., 3568

Carlisle, I., 8008.

Appendix, I,  
No. 9.

Clarke, I., 3663.

Judd, II., 984.

Clarke, I. 3032.

Donnelly, II., 49.

"Having dealt with administration in general, we propose to touch upon the all-important question of the Art Museum. We have already expressed our opinion that the keepers, assistant keepers, and juniors should remain in single sections of the museum and not be transferred from branch to branch. This has been largely accomplished, and one man will no longer have to 'attend to everything.' This will produce continuity and expert knowledge. It will also make the employment of referees and extraneous experts unnecessary. These gentlemen will be replaced by the visitors whose appointment we shall suggest. We do not necessarily mean that the old referees will be succeeded by men of wider attainments—for it would be well for some of the referees to become members of the Board of Visitors—but we mean that Mr. Clarke's system of sub-dividing the museum, the first outcome of which will be the training of official experts, will supersede the need of employing outside amateurs to do some of the most critical work of the Department. However, it has been found possible to dispense largely with the service of these gentlemen; they have only met once during the last five years. These gentlemen are paid for their advice. For the last occasion on which they met in 1897 they received four guineas apiece. As there are about a dozen of these gentlemen, their fees, amounting to 50*l.*, for a single attendance, would add materially to the cost of the objects upon which they would have to adjudicate. We do not think it right that these gentlemen, many of whom occupy high positions, should be paid for services which elsewhere are rendered gratuitously; moreover, the gentlemen who act upon the analogous Committee which deals with the Science Museum are unpaid. We therefore think that the art referees should not be continued. In any case the whole Committee should not be summoned at once, for those gentlemen who are on the Committee for their knowledge of textiles or furniture are not necessarily capable of estimating the value of ceramics or metal work. No official of the Science and Art Department, whether permanent or occasional, should be employed as a referee. The museum has also to trust a good deal to the advice of dealers and brokers. For the disastrous purchases at the Hamilton sale a dealer was largely responsible. This again will become unnecessary when the scheme for developing expertise within the Department have had time to take effect. Before leaving this subject we desire to point out the careless manner in which these experts are appointed. An expert

was



was called in to pronounce upon a water-colour drawing of such importance, that besides spending the whole annual grant of 700*l.* upon it, 100*l.* had to be added from another vote. Mr. Armstrong, the Director for Art, who is in charge of the paintings, was unable to tell the Committee who this expert was."—(Lord *Balcarres*.)

Armstrong, I.,  
5755.

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendment proposed, in line 11 of the proposed new paragraph, to leave out the words "the most critical work," in order to insert the words "some of the purchases"—(Sir *John Gorst*).—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 4.

Lord *Balcarres*.  
Mr. *John Burns*.  
Mr. *Kenrick*.  
Mr. *Yoxall*.

Noes, 3.

Sir *John Gorst*.  
Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*.  
Mr. *Woodall*.

[Adjourned to Thursday next, at Twelve o'clock.]

Thursday, 21st July, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Dr. *Farquharson*.  
Mr. *Woodall*.  
Lord *Balcarres*.  
Mr. *John Burns*.  
Mr. *Kenrick*.

Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*.  
Mr. *Daly*.  
Sir *Mancherjee Bhownaggee*.  
Mr. *Ernest Gray*.  
Mr. *Yoxall*.

Motion made and question put, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:—

"Your Committee desire to place on record their great regret that Mr. Acland, formerly Vice-President of the Council on Education, should have been compelled by indisposition to retire from the Committee. His intimate knowledge of the London Museums, to which he devoted the most careful attention, and his experience in educational subjects, would have been of the greatest service to the Committee."—(The *Chairman*.)

Question, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Proposed new paragraph further considered.

Amendment proposed in line 14 of the proposed new paragraph, to leave out all the words after the words "as there are" to the word "adjudicate" in line 16, both inclusive.—(Mr. *Woodall*.)

Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 5.

Lord *Balcarres*.  
Mr. *John Burns*.  
Mr. *Daly*.  
Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*.  
Mr. *Kenrick*.

Noes, 2.

Dr. *Farquharson*.  
Mr. *Woodall*.

Another amendment proposed in line 16 of the proposed new paragraph to leave out all the words after the words "We do not think" to the word "continued" in line 20, both inclusive.—(Mr. *Woodall*.)

Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 5.

Lord *Balcarres*.  
Mr. *John Burns*.  
Mr. *Daly*.  
Mr. *Humphreys-Owen*.  
Mr. *Kenrick*.

Noes, 2.

Dr. *Farquharson*.  
Mr. *Woodall*.

Another Amendment proposed in line 20 of the proposed new paragraph to leave out all the words from the words "The Museum" to the words "expert was," at the end of the paragraph, both inclusive.—(Mr. *Kenrick*.)



Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph,—put, and *negatived*.

Question put, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 5.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Humpheys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.

Noes, 2.

Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Woodall.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

We now wish to offer some criticism upon the class of objects in the museum, forgeries, and trash. The museum is, of course, crowded with objects of incalculable beauty and value; their value would be enormously enhanced by a judicious elimination of the worthless things. There are some acknowledged forgeries in the museum:

(a.) Cardinal Wolsey's chair, bought at the Hamilton Palace sale. This is now admitted to be Cingalese work of the 18th century.

(b.) A Vernis-Martin cabinet; its panels are genuine, but as the thing was made up by an official now actually employed in the museum, the sum of 816*l.* paid for it must be considered excessive.

(c.) A number of forged Della Robbia pieces. These have been sent to Bethnal Green (the *Refugium peccatorum*), and are now labelled 'imitations.'

(d.) The Molinari gateway. 600*l.* was paid for this large stone gateway, having been previously refused at 300*l.* Sir Charles Robinson considers that three quarters of it are spurious, and he read to the Committee a statement to that effect written by one Pietro Faitini, the man who 'made up' the gateway. Mr. Armstrong demurs to this view, although he considers the medallions 'bad': he is prepared to mark those parts which are notoriously spurious: we consider the proposal a wise one.

(e.) Dr. Middleton drew up a list of 50 objects which had been removed. They are either forgeries, 'quasi forgeries,' or worthless things. These have been suppressed.

(f.) Sir Charles Robinson states, that the Agate Cup, bought at the Hamilton Palace Sale for 535*l.*, is a modern 'make up,' and not worth more than 50*l.* It would be well to test the value of this object by consulting Mr. Read, Mr. Davis, or some other acknowledged authority."—(Lord Balcarras).

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

Amendments made.

Amendment proposed in line 5 of the proposed new paragraph, to leave out all the words from the word "Cardinal" to the words "18th century," in line 6, both inclusive.—(Mr. Woodall).

Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 5.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Humpheys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.

Noes, 2.

Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Woodall.

Another Amendment proposed, To leave out sub-section (f) of the proposed new paragraph.—(Dr. Farquharson.)

Question put, That sub-section (f) stand part of the proposed paragraph.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 6.

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes, 3.

Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Humpheys-Owen.  
Mr. Woodall.

Further consideration of proposed paragraph, as amended, *postponed*.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"We pass to the objects for which obviously excessive prices have been paid. Sir Charles Robinson informed the Committee that the Oviform Vase bought at the Hamilton Sale for the sum of 71*l.* 8*s.* was not only an excessive price, but that the object was superfluous, as the Museum already possessed two identical vases for which 7*l.* and 2*l.* 10*s.* had been paid respectively. The grossest



grossest case is that of the Silver Clock which was 'bought in' at an auction for 345*l.*, and for which the Museum paid 1,200*l.* a year later. It is true that this happened in 1869. But since that time the pernicious system has continued under which similar blunders were committed: caused by the absence of experts in the Museum, and the consequent dependence upon extraneous advice. In this case Sir Digby Wyatt, the eminent architect, was called in as an expert. Here again we recur to Mr. Clarke's sub-division of the Museum as the best and only guarantee against errors of this description."—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

Amendments made.

Question put, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 7.

Lord *Balcarres*.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes, 3.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Woodall.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:—

"There are many undesirable objects to which we must call attention. The bulk of these have found their way to Bethnal Green, and would do justice to the department described by Mr. Purdon Clarke as the 'Chamber of Horrors.' Most of these things form the modern collection. There is a huge pottery wine cooler, a white vase seven feet high, 'hideous black Venetian figures' which might be removed 'without any very great loss to the neighbourhood.' The large model of the vineyard is worthless, especially in East London. The forged terra-cotta has already been referred to; and we understand that the Department no longer pays large prices for indifferent reproductions (not casts but reduced versions) of art objects. All these things are well exhibited at Bethnal Green. We cannot understand why valuable space is wasted upon the things while South Kensington itself is so congested; these objects are considered to have no teaching value, while from the art point of view they are too bad to be sent on circulation; though we would point out that the system of 'deposit loan' affords the means of disposing rubbish among provincial towns. Preston for instance, and Edinburgh receive loans of this deplorable type. We think that notwithstanding the pecuniary loss, it would be well to destroy a selection of these cumbrous objects; such a course has already been taken by the Museum. We however notice, in the valuable evidence given by the Director of the Birmingham Gallery, that these objects, though artistically worthless, may be of use when exhibited as bad specimens, as warnings to students and craftsmen. At any rate they should not be preserved and described as at present in such a manner as to convey the impression that they are of technical or artistic value."—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Clarke, I., 4221.

Clarke, I., 3851.

Blow, II., 2622

Clarke, I., 3840.

Wallis, II., 1401

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question put, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 7.

Lord *Balcarres*.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes, 2.

Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Woodall.

[Adjourned to Friday next at Eleven o'clock.]



Friday, 22nd July, 1898.

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Lord Balcarres.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Mr. Yoxall.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Daly.  
Dr. Farquharson.

Paragraphs 63-66 *postponed*.

Paragraph 67 by leave *withdrawn*.

Paragraph 68 *agreed to*.

Paragraph 69

Amendment proposed in line 2 to leave out the word "an" in order to insert the word "his."—  
(Lord Balcarres.)

Question put, That the word "an" stand part of the paragraph.—The Committee divided :

Aye, 1.

Mr. Woodall.

Noes, 4.

Lord Balcarres.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick

Question, That the word "his" be there inserted—put, and *agreed to*.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Paragraph 70 *agreed to*.

Paragraph 71 amended and *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 72 and 73 *agreed to*.

Paragraph 74 amended and *agreed to*.

Paragraphs 75 and 76 *agreed to*.

Paragraph 77 amended and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 78 *agreed to*.

Paragraph 79 amended and *agreed to*.

Paragraph 80

Amendment proposed in line 1 to leave out all the words from the word "that" down to the word "otherwise" in line 3, both inclusive, in order to insert the words "with a view to make the Bethnal Green Museum serve the primary purpose of its establishment, the necessary steps should be taken to provide it with a system of Science and Art instruction and an Art Library."—(Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.)

Question proposed, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the paragraph.

Amendment by leave *withdrawn*.

Another Amendment proposed in line 5 to leave out the word "district" in order to insert the words "East End population of London, that the system of exhibitions established in the past two years be continued, that lectures should be organised in connection therewith, and that the Public Library at Bethnal Green be located on a site in the grounds of the Museum, or immediately adjoining it."—(Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.)

Question proposed, That the word "district" stand part of the paragraph.

Amendment by leave *withdrawn*.

Another Amendment proposed in line 5, after the word "district," to insert the words "The Committee, however, call attention to the admissions by the Bishop of Stepney of want of public spirit in the district as evinced by the difficulty, if not impossibility, of obtaining subscriptions from the ground landlords and industrial capitalists. They are of opinion that further gifts of public money should only be given to meet corresponding contributions from local sources, either by way of rates or of private subscriptions."—(Mr. Humphreys-Owen.)

Question proposed, That these words be there inserted.

An amendment made.

Amendment



Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment to leave out the words "from the ground landlords and industrial capitalists" in line 3.—(Mr. Kenrick.)

Question put, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed amendment.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 6.

Lord Balcarras.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noe, 1.

Mr. Kenrick.

Paragraph, as amended, *agreed to*.

Postponed new paragraph beginning "We now wish to offer some criticism," *see page xcii*, further considered and amended.

Another Amendment proposed at the end of the proposed paragraph to add the following words: "On the question of who were the persons responsible for recommending the purchase of objects proved or alleged to be spurious we prefer to express no opinion; and we decline to enter into the discussion of circumstances which many years ago attended the purchase, or negotiations for purchase, of certain objects, concerning which much conflicting evidence was brought before us."—(Mr. Yoxall.)

Donnelly, 322  
*infra*.  
Robinson,  
7509 *infra*.

Question, That these words be there added,—put, and *agreed to*.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"The South Kensington authorities have recently taken a wise step in transferring to other public institutions objects which do not properly come within their own sphere. Thus the National Gallery has received several important Italian paintings by Perugino and the younger Bellini. They still belong to the Science and Art Department, but nobody could question the propriety of this transfer. So also the British Museum has taken over the custody of the collection of coins formerly shown at South Kensington. We are aware that the inter-relation of our public museums and galleries involves issues of controversy as well as of importance. Our reference does not permit us to enter upon a discussion of this subject. We may, however, be allowed to indicate that the question is well worthy of detailed consideration, by suggesting (a) the relations of Kew and Jermyn Street Museum respectively to the Natural History Museum; (b) of South Kensington to the British Museum; (c) of the three metropolitan picture galleries to the Chantry Bequest and South Kensington; (d) of the Public Record Office to the archive departments of various Government offices; (e) and lastly, the general relation of our national collections to those maintained by municipal bodies. The Art Library at South Kensington has a large collection of 'National Portraits,' prints, and so forth. These would be more appropriate to the National Portrait Gallery, whither they should be transferred. Mr. Weale pointed out that there would be no objection to this transfer provided that those engravings which were suitable to an art library as illustrating costume, lace, armour, or styles of engraving, were retained at South Kensington. The others being of purely historical interest should be handed over to the trustees of the National Portrait Gallery."—(Lord Balcarras.)

Carlisle, I., 5298.

Clarke, I., 3659.

Cf. Donnelly,  
I., 1210.

Weale, I., 6845.

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendment proposed at the beginning of the proposed paragraph to insert the words "There are a number of duplicate prints. These might be disposed of as gifts to Provincial Museums and Schools"—(Mr. Kenrick).—Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Other Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"(11.) It appears that on several occasions loans have been refused to South Kensington because they are only accepted at the exhibitors' risk. There used to be a small vote in the Estimates for hire of specimens, but it is now merged in the grant in aid. Were this vote somewhat increased money might be found for insurance, due care being, of course, taken that the insurance should not be made the vehicle for advertisement of the objects. The Secretary was not aware of the recent cases quoted by the Director in which the Museum had been obliged to decline loans owing to this absence of insurance. Correspondence on such questions as these should go through the secretarial department. The converse case, in which provincial museums receive loans from South Kensington, is not quite analogous, because these museums guarantee the safe return of the objects, but in no case may they be handled. Mr. Wallis pointed out that where these museums are equipped with a strictly professional staff (as at Birmingham, Nottingham, &c.) permission might be given to handle certain objects sent down from South Kensington. This would be especially

Donnelly  
II., 176.  
Clarke, I., 3195,  
4252.

Donnelly, I., 576.

Wallis, II.,  
1331, &c.



Donnelly,  
II., 187.

Appendix,  
I., No. 28.

Donnelly,  
I., 8433.

especially useful in the art schools where the objects are seldom of much intrinsic worth, but where the handling would promote technical instruction in the matter of surface, texture, glaze, quality, &c., of the objects. Mr. Wallis said that he would have no objection to giving a guarantee for the safety of these loans. In those instances where the South Kensington officials break objects lent to their Museum, we are strongly of opinion that compensation should be paid. During the last few months a jade cup belonging to an honourable Member of your House has been broken; and a picture has been 'ripped' through carelessness. We have had a return of 170 breakages in the Museum and circulation. This return is incomplete, as it does not record breakages anterior to 1863 in the Museum, or before 1877 in circulation; neither is any notice taken of the deplorable losses caused by the fire in 1885, which destroyed 175 large drawings and other objects."—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendment proposed to the proposed new paragraph, to leave out all the words after the words "Mr. Wallis" in line 10 to the word "loans" in line 16, both inclusive.—(Mr. *Kenrick*).

Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph,—put, and *negatived*.

Another Amendment made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

Appendix,  
I., No. 2.  
Appendix,  
I., No. 25.  
Lord Spencer,  
I., 5148.  
Donnelly,  
I., 2033.  
Plunkett,  
I., 4344.  
Graves, II., 2094.  
Maunde  
Thompson,  
I., 6509.

(22) (a). As long ago as 1873, the Government of the day settled to transfer the South Kensington collections to the custody of the British Museum. In 1893 the Government offered the Bethnal Green Museum to the London County Council, and we understand that the offer has never been withdrawn. In 1882 Lord Spencer appointed a Consultative Committee of gentlemen, hoping that they might overcome the prejudice in the mind of the public. We are firmly convinced that, in order to rehabilitate the prestige of South Kensington, a Board of Visitors should be appointed. The Dublin Museum has already got such a Board, working in harmony with the director and helping to inspire confidence in Ireland. At the British Museum the unpaid board of Trustees works very well. We do not recommend trustees for South Kensington, but visitors, the executive powers being vested in the Parliamentary heads of the Department.

The functions of the board would be advisory.

(a) They would meet monthly at South Kensington, as required by themselves. They must arrange their own meetings and agenda.

(b) Power should be given to the board to appoint sub-committees.

(c) Minutes of each committee and sub-committee should be regularly kept.

(d) The board would advise the Lord President upon all questions connected with the arrangement, management, cataloguing, and classification of collections. Also with regard to loans, purchases, elimination, and exchange. The board should inspect the museum periodically.

(e) We cannot recommend that they should appoint officials, although this privilege is accorded to the trustees of the Science and Art Department Library at Dublin. But we think they should be entitled to advise on appointments, promotion, and transfer of officials.

Donnelly, I., 47.

(f) They should give special care to the development of circulation.

(g) They should have the power to call in the director and keepers of the museum for consultation.

(h) They should make an annual report, to be embodied in that of the department.

Appendix,  
I., No. 34.

Robinson,  
I., 7692.  
Armstrong,  
I., 4892.  
Plunkett,  
I., 4355.

All executive power remains with the Department. The Visitors would have no control over the Royal College of Art. Many of the duties we have suggested were to have appertained to the committees of advice, which were directed to advise on "purchases, elimination of objects, cataloguing, general arrangements, etc." But these committees, with an aggregate of 80 members, not having been summoned for years, have been quite inoperative. We cannot over-estimate the vital necessity for a prompt application of the old system on the basis we have outlined. Nothing else will restore confidence so effectively.—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendment proposed in line 1, at the beginning of the proposed new paragraph, to insert the words "Efforts have from time to time been made to give greater efficiency to, and increasing public confidence in the administration of South Kensington"—(Mr. *Humphreys Owen*).—Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Other Amendments made.

Another Amendment proposed in line 6 of proposed new paragraph, to leave out the words "in order to rehabilitate the prestige of South Kensington"—(Mr. *Humphreys Owen*).—Question put,

That



That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph.—The Committee divided :

Ayes, 6.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Daly.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes, 4.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Woodall.

Another Amendment proposed in line 10 after the word "Department," to insert the words "The constitution of the Board should be representative of the various public interests affected by South Kensington"—(Mr. *Ernest Gray*).

Question, That those words be there inserted,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, To leave out all the words from the word "functions" in line 11 to the word "consultation" in line 25.—(Mr. *Woodall*).

Question, That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed new paragraph.—The Committee divided :

Ayes, 6.

Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes, 3.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.  
Dr. Farquharson.  
Mr. Woodall.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

[Adjourned till Tuesday next, at Eleven o'clock.

*Tuesday, 26th July, 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT :

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Mr. John Burns.  
Lord Balcarras.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggee.

Another Amendment proposed that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report :

"CIRCULATION.

"With regard to sending objects to museums, it is quite clear that the unique and priceless treasures at South Kensington should not be sent on circulation. This has not been done since the Soltikoff reliquary was sent to Birmingham many years ago. The selection of objects sent from South Kensington Museum should be made with the utmost care; local wishes should be consulted, the special industrial and artistic requirements of a district being met as far as possible. The views of manufacturers and the needs of the artizan class should be consulted; but at the same time it must be understood that the Keeper of the Circulation Department should exercise his judgment and discretion. He must not allow bad things to be sent even when the local authorities make an evil choice. The tendency of these local bodies in the smaller centres is to ask for a 'little of everything,' a collection which will be attractive, and 'bring in the shillings and sixpences.' In such cases the keeper of the circulation division should not hesitate to use his influence on behalf of a judicious selection of examples; they should be suited to the local needs, and the loan should embrace a proportion of exhibits of a kindred nature to those previously sent; continuity is needed in the Circulation Department as much as sequence is needed in the Central Museum. The local curator is sometimes too fully occupied to give proper attention to the circulation branch of his work. Such gentlemen would derive much advantage from a competent adviser at South Kensington. We have no reason to doubt that, speaking generally, provincial museums and schools are satisfied with the Circulation Department. An appendix gives a series of extracts (some dating back to 1889) expressing satisfaction with loans made by South Kensington. These letters and resolutions from Nottingham, Chester, Hanley, and many other towns, were perfectly spontaneous. We would point out, with much respect, that local approbation does not necessarily connote the educational value of the exhibits, particularly in those towns where the curator is 'only too thankful to take anything that is sent down.' The Keeper of the Circulation Department should not consider popularity as the first objective of the loans.

"Immense progress has recently been achieved in this Department. A classified catalogue of the art books in this section is now being made. Steps are being taken to utilise the extensive series of magic lantern slides. These will be sent about the country for the assistance of lecturers, and



Appendix,  
I., No. 45.

Wallis, II., 1251.

Clarke, I., 3058.

Clarke, I., 3058.

Plunkett,  
I., 4774.

Wallis, II., 1323.

Appendix,  
I., No. 45.

Wallis, II., 1327.

Cundall, I., 6014.

Blow, II., 2569.

Cundall, I., 6018.

Clarke, I., 4024.

Clarke, I., 2973.

Cundall, I., 6005.

Donnelly,  
I., 1230.

Wallis, I., 1259

and if the admirable suggestions made by the Director can be carried into effect the whole service will be improved. This plan is to combine lectures with exhibits, special attention being devoted to casts and facsimiles which would be sent together with original objects. These reproductions are made with such skill that it is almost impossible to distinguish them from their originals; intrinsically valueless, they are of equal benefit to the student and craftsman. These casts can also be coloured and waxed in a manner to make them appear identical with the genuine article. A prejudice exists against copies, but a good facsimile of a first-class object is of greater value than a second-rate original. These casts will be chiefly serviceable for art schools. As to lectures, Colonel Plunkett has already organised a successful series in Dublin Museum; similar lectures and demonstrations seem to be highly appreciated in the Midlands. We need scarcely observe that nothing is more likely to stimulate interest than lectures illustrated by lantern slides or the objects themselves. Another improvement contemplated is that cheap illustrated catalogues should be issued with the more important loan collections. In Birmingham 27,000 copies of a penny catalogue, drawn up by the local authority, were sold in three months. A further reform has already been inaugurated in connection with art schools, namely, allowing them to have loans of artistic merit and value, hitherto they have only received examples of comparatively small worth. Elementary and lower secondary schools might advantageously receive on permanent loan the works performed by students for the third-rate certificate. Those training colleges for teachers where instruction in drawing is given might also receive small and not costly duplicates, electrotypes, &c. Polytechnics are also anxious to borrow from the Department.

"Meanwhile administrative reforms have been carried out. We now anticipate a large increase in applications for loans. The officials of the Department seem to think that they will soon find it difficult to meet the demands made upon them. It will probably be found necessary to make circulation quite distinct from the Museum, giving it a special vote in the Estimates, and an expert keeper not subject to removal from one section of the Museum to another. All available duplicates should be given into his charge; and it is quite possible that it will be found advisable to appoint an inspector to lecture and supervise the provincial work. This development, though expensive, would be most remunerative, and could be defrayed out of unnecessary sums voted for other Museum purposes. A more careful selection of exhibitions to which loans are sent would also tend to economy. During 1895 (Annual Report, Appendix D), thirteen towns received loans for less than a week. Peterborough, for instance, received 400 objects; the exhibition was only open for four days, and was only visited by 713 persons. During the same year, towns such as Rochdale, Swansea, Plymouth, Bristol, Burnley, and Newcastle received no loans so far as museums are concerned."—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"(15.) Greater initiative should come from the Department; where municipalities seem apathetic the Department should point out the facilities for securing loans. Without forcing objects upon them it should be easy to persuade towns of great status and wealth to take their share in the useful work of circulation. Thus we look forward to an increase in the work and usefulness of the Museum. The press should be more widely used as a means of conveying information to the public; advertising, though specially provided for in the Estimates, is inadequately employed. Lectures, and a proper classification of the Museum, now a wilderness, owing chiefly to the character of the buildings, will also promote the best interests of the Department. Again, the Museum will be popularised by a proper system of cataloguing and labelling the objects. We have heard a good deal of evidence on this matter which we must treat in some detail.

Blow, II., 2534.

Clarke, I., 4064.

Donnelly,  
II., 451.

Weale, I., 6920.

Appendix,  
I., No. 41.

"The tendency in the past has been to have expensive catalogues, such as Maskell the Universal, &c. These may be valuable to students at home and abroad, but they are naturally of no use whatever to the man who wants a cheap handy reference book which will enable him to find the objects he is in search of. The existing practice is to publish 'hand-books.' These are often admirable little works, but cannot, of course, be considered as Museum catalogues. They are published 'with the sanction of the Department,' but we learn that, like the South Kensington portfolios, they are a private venture, and do not belong to the Museum. So, too, the red sixpenny guide is private property, belonging to the heirs of an official actually employed by the Department. The Museum does not appear to have any catalogue or guide of its own, except a small fly-sheet issued last year, which is distributed gratis. We hold that the Department should have undivided control of these publications, and that these commercial undertakings should be withdrawn. At the same time we feel that until the objects in the Museum are accurately labelled, all energy should be concentrated upon this work, the primary requirement; general catalogues and hand-books could then be drawn up, and the Museum inventory should be made available for reference to *bona fide* students: Later on the Museum will be able to issue cheap catalogues of special sections, ironwork for instance, or enamels, based upon the valuable monographs already made in the Art Library. Uncompleted catalogues, such as that about book-bindings, on which considerable sums have already been spent, should be finished forthwith. The Piot Catalogue has been in manu-

script



script for some years, and 'being of a nature to make it worth while to print it as it stands,' the work might be completed. The catalogue of engraved national portraits should be withdrawn pending careful revision. Special catalogues should be issued without delay. The catalogue of the furniture exhibition at Bethnal Green was not published for more than two months after the exhibition closed. When the Museum is properly organised into sections the officials will be expert enough to do their own cataloguing. This will be a great saving of money. The catalogue of National engraved portraits, made by an outsider, cost something between 620*l.* and 880*l.*—representing from 300 to 420 days' work. This sum would have secured the services of an extra assistant museum keeper for five or six years, and he would have done this particular catalogue in 18 months at the most.

"Valuable as good catalogues are, we doubt whether they are so important as good descriptive labels placed beside every object. This system is excellent, but, of course, it is only valid within the Museum itself, and it should be supplemented by reference catalogues for those who wish to work away from the Museum. These labels should be drawn up with the utmost regard for accuracy. Many of those now attached to the objects are 'very inaccurate.' Each object should be labelled separately. It is useless to describe objects in the manner suggested by this label: 'One of 94 pieces of Gothic architectural design, chiefly of oak, consisting of panels, friezes, pilasters, &c., English, Flemish, &c., 15th and 16th centuries, average dimensions 20 inches by 12.' While such collective labels are misleading, a short printed description giving a general sketch or history of the objects contained in a case may be very instructive. These explanatory documents are much appreciated at the Natural History Museum and at Birmingham. The labels should indicate which part of any object is not altogether genuine, following the practice of the authorities of the Louvre. In cases where objects have been bought for their beauty, the labels should be as precise and searching as if the object had been bought for its authenticity as well."—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Donnelly,  
II., 714.

Clarke, I., 4178.

Appendix,  
I., 41.  
Weale, I., 6749.  
Donnelly,  
I., 1316.Skinner,  
II., 1638.

Cundall, I., 5217.

Wallis, II., 1249.  
Skinner,  
II., 1643.  
Armstrong,  
I., 5860A.  
Armstrong,  
II., 65.  
Armstrong,  
I., 5649, &c.

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Postponed paragraph 37 *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"(16.) We have reserved criticism of the Art Library because we have received a mass of evidence on the subject, and we think that this section requires such careful organisation that it should be dealt with separately. In our opinion it is perhaps the most important so far as students and craftsmen are concerned. It has no specific grant in the Estimates: and the keeper of the library denied the statement that his views as to the financial needs of the library were consulted previous to drawing up the Estimate. The keeper of the library is not responsible for even the most insignificant purchases. Mr. Weale found the library in confusion on his appointment. He reduced it to order, reorganised the system of cataloguing, swept away old abuses, and he has overtaken much of the accumulated arrears. But the system of purchase, control, and staffing is organically unsound and much remains to be done. The urgent requirements of the library are (a) a separate staff, (b) a special entrance examination, (c) responsibility of the keeper.

Weale, I., 6102.

Donnelly, I., 892.  
Weale, I., 6055.  
Donnelly, I., 895.Weale, I., 6895.  
Appendix,  
I., No. 38.Maunde  
Thompson,  
I., 6242.Weale, I., 6102.  
Appendix,  
I., No. 38.

Weale, I., 7046.

"A separate staff is necessary in order that the officials may not be transferred from section to section. Bibliography requires a strict training, and it is a mistake to suppose that the library will make progress in the future if it continues necessary to 'do the best it can with all-round men.' These officials do not merely catalogue acquisitions; they should possess an intimate acquaintance with their books in order to direct the researches of many thousand students who work in the library. Men should go to the library young, and with a view of staying there; it is quite useless to send a man into the library at the age of 32 or 33 unless he has had previous library training; the official has to be removed, or remains a burden to his colleagues, who have to correct his mistakes."—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Question, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"(17.) Library vacancies should be advertised. Candidates who enter competitive examinations for South Kensington Museum ought to know that they may be sent into the library. One gentleman who wanted a post in the Museum was put into the library, the existence of which he did not know; he dislikes library work, and is trying to get transferred to the Museum. Another gentleman was entitled, by having won the highest place in a competitive examination, to choose the section in which to serve. This privilege was taken away from him. He was sent to the library much against his wishes, and after fifteen months he succeeded in getting transferred to the Museum. One need scarcely point out that these officials, though excellent men, are not fit persons to be on the library staff."—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Weale, I., 6133.

Weale, I., 6120.

Question, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.



Another Amendment proposed that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report :

Donnelly, I., 63.

"(18.) If a separate staff be conceded, a special examination should be allowed as well. The librarian at Jermyn Street is specially examined already. We do not mean to suggest that all the examination papers should differ from those of candidates for the Museum, but that one or more special subjects should be substituted for those which are at present unnecessary for Art Library work. This is the British Museum plan; the subject can, of course, be varied according to the needs of the library. Thus, at present, there is no junior who knows anything of German, a language of the first importance in an art library. As long ago as 1892 the keeper suggested that candidates should be acquainted with the library rules."—(Lord *Balcarras*).

Weale, I., 6116.  
Weale, I., 7788.  
Weale, I., 6153.  
Weale, I., 6102.

Question, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report :

Weale, I., 7075

Weale, I., 6917.

Weale, I., 6920.

Thompson, I., 6466.

Weale, 6995, 7919.

Donnelly, I., 8358.

Weale, I., 7010.

Weale, I., 7094.

Weale, 7095.

Weale, I., 7102.

Weale, I., 7010.

6792.

Weale, I., 6102.

Weale, I., 6667.

Weale, I., 7907.

Weale, I., 7911.

Weale, I., 6024.

See App., I., 2044.

Weale, I., 6790.

Weale, I., 7894.

Weale, I., 7911.

Weale, I., 6024.

See App., I., 2044.

Weale, I., 6790.

Weale, I., 7894.

Weale, I., 7911.

Weale, I., 6024.

See App., I., 2044.

Weale, I., 6790.

Weale, I., 7894.

Weale, I., 7911.

Weale, I., 6024.

See App., I., 2044.

Weale, I., 6790.

Weale, I., 7894.

Weale, I., 7911.

Weale, I., 6024.

See App., I., 2044.

Weale, I., 6790.

Weale, I., 7894.

Weale, I., 7911.

Weale, I., 6024.

See App., I., 2044.

Weale, I., 6790.

Weale, I., 7894.

Weale, I., 7911.

Weale, I., 6024.

See App., I., 2044.

Weale, I., 6790.

Weale, I., 7894.

Weale, I., 7911.

Weale, I., 6024.

See App., I., 2044.

Weale, I., 6790.

Weale, I., 7894.

Weale, I., 7911.

Weale, I., 6024.

See App., I., 2044.

Weale, I., 6790.

Weale, I., 7894.

Weale, I., 7911.

Weale, I., 6024.

See App., I., 2044.

Weale, I., 6790.

Weale, I., 7894.

Weale, I., 7911.

Weale, I., 6024.

See App., I., 2044.

"(19.) The system of cataloguing which has been introduced by Mr. Weale is approved by the highest authorities on bibliography, and in no other library is his useful system of a printed list of weekly acquisitions followed; these lists are much appreciated by the readers, and they ensure the prompt entry of all accessions. Classified catalogues of books on particular subjects have been printed, and further volumes are in contemplation. A code of cataloguing rules has also been made, and is strictly enforced. Sir E. Maunde Thompson's view is, that the library of the British Museum could never get on without such rules. South Kensington, however, has dispensed with them for forty years, that is, until seven years ago. Mr. Soden Smith during his later years suffered from ill-health, and was away from the Museum for months together. His subordinates had no rules to guide them, they were liable to be shifted from section to section, and the catalogue shows a strange lack of knowledge. H. C. Reneue is given in the catalogue as an author's name: it is really a misprint for the French word meaning 'revised.' Deel is also given as an author, the word being the Dutch for 'volume.' The title of a book on the Marian Annals 'Mariani Fasti,' is transformed into an author's name; Fasti being made the surname, and Mariani the Christian name. Another habitual error seems to have arisen from confusion between the writer's name and the name of his town or birthplace, which was frequently appended to the name in the 15th and 16th centuries. There are many other errors of this description. Corrections are being made wherever these entries are discovered, but the current work of the library is too great to permit any systematic search for these vagaries. Another result of bad cataloguing, that is to say, working without clearly defined rules, has been that the library has bought many duplicates. The keeper stated that he could give several hundred instances. There are over 22 copies of various editions of Alciatus' book, on Emblems, an utterly excessive number, even considering that books are sent on circulation. The Hokusai case is even more remarkable: this is a collection of sketches published in 14 volumes. The first is complete, with an extra volume 5; the second set has 14 volumes, without extra cuts. The third copy wants volumes 1, 8, and 12. The fourth set wants volumes 1, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14. The fifth set wants volumes 1, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14. The sixth set wants all but volumes 2, 5, 7, and 10. The seventh and eighth sets only consist of volumes 2 and 5. The collection of prints is in a similar condition. No proper inventory having been kept, there are enormous amounts of duplicates and triplicates; five copies of the same print can often be found, together with a few spurious copies. Of some prints the library has as many as 20 or 30 copies. The bad ones should be suppressed, and a number of the better examples should be transferred to circulation, and given away to provincial schools. Care must be taken in the future that the number of repetitions shall not be increased. The purchasing should be in the hands of the keeper; no outside amateur should act as broker for the Museum.

"It may be necessary to make a separate department for prints and drawings.

"A curious illustration of departmental laxity is shown in the practice of binding up advertisements. The letterpress of various newspapers and journals taken in by the Library was separated from the advertisements and bound up; but the advertisements were also bound up separately in half morocco with gilt edges. When Mr. Weale was made keeper he immediately put a stop to this waste, and withdrew the subscription to newspapers such as 'Puck.' He sent 213 volumes of advertisement pages of the 'Garden,' 'The Queen,' 'The Builder,' and other architectural journals, to stores. Here they were destroyed. Nothing deposited in the library and museum should be destroyed without express sanction of the Board."—(Lord *Balcarras*).

Weale, I., 6926.

Weale, I., 7946.

Saltmarsh, I., 8210.

Saltmarsh, I., 8202.

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report :

"(20.) We now pass to the position held by the keeper in his administrative capacity. He is not a responsible official; he is not responsible for purchases, which are subject to the constant interference of his superior officers. He is not responsible for cataloguing the books, prints, photographs, &c., of which he is the nominal keeper. He is not consulted about the financial needs of the library.

A collection



"A collection of drawings of old London architecture was bought for 350*l*. The whole sum was charged to the Art Library vote. The keeper protested that the price was excessive, and pointed out that the drawings would be useless to his students, especially as they were nearly all reproduced in a book already bought for the library. The collection had previously been refused by the Guildhall Library and the British Museum, but the purchase was forced upon the keeper, and when he had signed the bill as correct the collection was hurried off to Bethnal Green without the librarian's sanction or suggestion.

"There are about 100,000 photographs in the Art Library. They would be invaluable for reference were there a proper catalogue. The existing index is very defective. The library is suffering from previous neglect, for all the cataloguing should have been done as the photographs were added to the library. Three gentlemen (outsiders) were appointed to continue the catalogue. The keeper informed the director that they were incompetent, but they were, nevertheless, appointed, one of them receiving a fee of three guineas a day, a sum larger than the weekly salary of a junior assistant who could have done the work; this appointment was made in the face of an official protest, although we were informed that outside experts are employed on the recommendation of the keeper. We again point out that, for this kind of cataloguing, payment should be by the slip, not by the day. The work should be carried out under the supervision of the keeper who will have to revise the slips. In this case he was told not to interfere. The work went on until the vote for these gentlemen's salaries had been exceeded by 100*l*. (Hansard, July 30, 1898.)" (Lord *Balcarres*).

Armstrong,  
I., 5869A.  
Weale, I., 6072.

Weale, I.  
Weale, I., 6691,  
7824.  
Weale, I., 6715.  
Weale, I., 6734.  
Donnelly,  
I., 1341.

Weale, I., 6696.  
Weale, I., 6702.

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"(21.) A great deal of evidence has been laid before us about the catalogue of 'National Engraved Portraits,' compiled by a cousin of the Secretary of the Department. The compiler was appointed in spite of protests from the keeper, who said that it would be a sheer waste of public money. The prediction has been verified. The catalogue has no index whatever. It is grossly inaccurate, and full of absurdities, so far as the biographical notes adapted (sometimes almost verbatim) from previous catalogues issued by South Kensington are concerned. Pugin, for instance, is said to have 'cruised about the channel, collecting archaeological and natural curiosities.' Hobson is said to have died 'at the time of the plague' in 1630. Ballantyne became a friend of Sir Walter Scott in 1873, and in the same year Sir David Baird took the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch! Jackson, a publican pugilist, has eleven lines of biography, while Lord Beaconsfield, 'Conservative Politician,' has three. It is difficult to believe that the compiler was paid two guineas a day for correcting his proofs. In other cases the 'national' prints represent personages of whom no particulars can be given simply because they were not of national moment—Mr. West, for instance, wax-chandler and oilman of Soho. Such prints are useless to an art library, and there is no need to spend large sums of money in describing them. The catalogue of the National Portrait Gallery, accurate, indexed, and scholarly, costs 6*d*. unbound. Nothing was paid for its compilation, the work being done by the keeper and his staff. But this catalogue (bound in cheap cloth), though not more bulky than the other, has 5*s*. 3*d*. as the price on its title page. This is erased at South Kensington, where a stamp is affixed worded 'reduced to 3*s*. 6*d*.' or 'Price at the museum 3*s*. 6*d*.' The publishers sell the book for 5*s*. 3*d*. and 3*s*. 11½*d*. These various prices are somewhat confusing.

Donnelly,  
I., 2077.  
Weale, I., 6872.  
Weale, 6834.  
Weale, I., 6837.  
Appendix I,  
No. 37 and 38.

Donnelly,  
I., 6317, &c.  
Weale, I., 6810.  
Donnelly,  
I., 6829.

"It is not possible to say how much each slip in the catalogue cost. Compilation of titles for descriptive catalogues should cost from 1*d*. to 6*d*. per title, according to the character of the work. Miss Ffoulkes, an expert employed to make descriptive catalogues, was paid up to 4*d*. a slip. The slips in this catalogue must have cost considerably more. For cataloguing 1,071 foreign portraits 174*l*. was paid—about 3*s*. 2*d*. each—an abnormally high price, even if these slips are more accurate than those in the published volume.

Donnelly,  
I., 1340.  
Weale, I., 6732.  
Donnelly, II.,  
578.

Donnelly, II.,  
472.

"As to the price of compilation, &c., it was officially stated in Parliament that the cost was "about 499*l*." (25 June 1896). This answer was not made without very careful enquiry. Mr. Weale, who had to certify the attendances of the compiler, said that the catalogue cost upwards of 880*l*. Further enquiry was then made at the request of the Committee. It then transpired that the original statement made by the department was entirely wrong; but attention having been drawn to the mistake it was still impossible to state the exact cost, which is alleged to be either 619*l*. or 675*l*. We observe that Mr. Weale's contention that the cost was 880*l*. has not been disproved. But it is immaterial which estimate is accepted. In any case the cost was quite excessive, and the laxity in the financial department most culpable."—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Bailey, I., 745.

Weale, I., 6748.

Appendix, I  
No. 41

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"(21a.) The Dyce and Forster Library is a valuable bequest of drawings, and books largely about dramatic matters; not an art library all. They are somewhat out of place at South Kensington, but we do not of course suggest their removal. We think, however, that the cost of maintaining this

Donnelly, I.,  
1891.



Donnelly, I.,  
1171.

Appendix, I., 24.

Weale, I., 6193.

this library could be reduced without affecting the comfort of the readers. The popularity of the library is waning. There are not now more than two or three readers a day (see annual reports); no cataloguing has to be done except in the case of two periodicals which are taken in. Yet a keeper receives 25*l.* a year for looking after it; there are two attendants, one of whom having nothing to do in Dyce and Forster, works for the Art Library in the Dyce and Forster rooms. Until recently this collection was merged in the Art Library, and controlled by the Keeper of the Art Library. This arrangement was not inconvenient to the readers, and was an economy of money and time. But when an official was recently transferred from the Circulation Department he was made keeper, and was put in charge of Dyce and Forster. We recommend a return to the old system, which worked well.

"To conclude our survey of the Art Library, we repeat our conviction that it is absolutely necessary to have the best available specialist for its keeper, that the keeper should be responsible for his department, and that his subordinates should be trained bibliographers, not liable to come into the library at a moment's notice from the Indian or Circulation Departments, and not liable to be sent from the Art Library to look after textiles or ceramics."—(Lord *Balcarres*.)

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

Donnelly,  
I., 837.  
Donnelly,  
II., 150.  
Donnelly,  
I., 8114.

"(12.) As to the preservation of documents, correspondence, &c., the Committee finds that papers dealing with objects in the Museum or offered to the Museum have been destroyed or mislaid. Thus, it was impossible to produce the adverse report on the Molinari Gateway ultimately bought for South Kensington. All documents and reports dealing with works of art refused as well as purchased by the Museum should be preserved; while no documents except those of a purely formal character should be destroyed without reference to the Public Record Office."—(Lord *Balcarres*.)

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

Armstrong,  
I., 5597, 5230.

Armstrong,  
I., 5585.

Cf. Form, 1286.

Armstrong,  
I., 5255.

"(13.) The control of the collection of pictures is unsatisfactory. The Director for Science has charge of one series. The Director of the Museum has exclusive control of others. We have already noted the absence of proper regulations about the custody of the Raphael Cartoons; and we may add that although the gallery in which they are shown was expressly remodelled for them, owing to some strange oversight the doors are too small to permit the removal of the cartoons until they have been unframed and rolled up. At the National Gallery large pictures are moved through trap-doors in the floor, and at Hampton Court the Mantegna Cartoons are mounted upon wheels and can be quickly rolled out of the building in case of fire. The responsibility for the paintings at South Kensington should be specified, and dual responsibility should be discontinued. This is especially needed in the matter of the famous cartoons which have been graciously lent to the Museum by Her Majesty. As to the need for the blue and yellow glass which has replaced the ordinary plain glass in the roof, matters of scientific debate are involved. The object of this costly arrangement, which lowers the tone of the colours and appears to fill the gallery with fog, is to intercept destructive rays of light; opinion however is divided, some persons arguing that while the system may protect certain colours it is harmful to others. Mr. Armstrong would very much prefer a white light. We do not recommend that this class of roof should be extended.

"The question of classification of objects is of great importance. At present there is practically none: Ceramics, for example, are to be found in half-a-dozen different places. We offer no opinion as to the three optional systems—classification by date, by country, and by material. When the new buildings approach completion the Department will have to decide which system shall be adopted."—(Lord *Balcarres*.)

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and *agreed to*.

Postponed paragraph 36 amended and *agreed to*.

Another Amendment proposed, that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

Festing,  
I., 2375.

Festing,  
I., 2275.  
Estimates,  
IV. 2, F. 1.

See para.

"(23.) We now pass to a consideration of the Science Museum. Our remarks on the administration of the art side apply to some extent to the science side; not nearly so much, because we notice with satisfaction that responsibility is more accurately defined, with the result that conflict between officials does not arise. Moreover the training of those employed on the science side has been more suitably arranged. The interchange of officials, which has had such disastrous effect in the Art and Indian Museums, is neither feasible nor necessary in the Science Museum, where the vote is smaller, and the separate branches of the work are fewer. Expert knowledge is of course required in the Science Museum, but since machinery is not forged like works of art, the purchase of scientific examples is not attended by the same risk as is the case in the Art Museum. We have already shown that the Director for Science (Captain Abney, R.E.) does not interfere with the purchasing duties of the Director of the Science Museum. This is the proper delimitation of work, as the Director for Science is fully occupied in forwarding the educational work



work of the country. We must, however, repeat that the Director of the Science Museum should be relieved of some duties now cast upon him. The appointment of a clerk of the works would bring about this alteration. At present there is nobody between the director and the labourers except the ordinary foreman. We need hardly say that much of General Festing's time is thus occupied in work which could well be done otherwise, leaving him free to devote his whole time to the museum.

"It is somewhat difficult to criticise the Science Museum, which combines examples exhibited for their historical value, with those shown for their scientific or mechanical value. The earliest locomotive engines are of the utmost interest from a historical aspect, while the phonograph has an equal value from the point of view of modern science. But considering the rather crowded state of the museum, the growth of these collections will produce a difficulty about elimination. A great many things have already been weeded out, but the time will come (and in some cases has already come) when objects bought for their mechanical value will become so obsolete that they may be worth keeping as curiosities. No doubt the difficulty can be best overcome by carefully eliminating examples as soon as they are out of date. The museum should be primarily educational, and discretion should be exercised to prevent an undue proportion of historical over effective exhibits. At the present moment the Science Museum is a compromise between the history and modern application of scientific enterprise. Its historic collection is by no means complete, while the section of working models contains a number of exhibits which are practically worthless for the artisan who wishes to see modern machinery. Electric lighting machinery is scarcely represented at all; likewise photography, phonography, and other modern scientific applications; the most recent working model is eight or nine years old, and others date back to 1860. These are, of course, superseded, and therefore useless to the engineering student, though they may be of some slight interest to the historian. The director holds that a science museum should 'have as its leading feature the illustration of great principles.' In this we agree with him, and we think that this object will be most readily obtained by eliminating those examples which are obsolete from a mechanical aspect, and which, not having initiated any principle, are unlikely to prove of historical importance hereafter. Specimens coming under this category are numerous in every department of the Science Museum. We admit that the purchase grant is not large enough to secure examples of every improved engine or appliance; but it is adequate to buy models of all those which illustrate the leading principles of science. We wish to say nothing that will discourage gifts and loans to the museum; but at the same time we are bound to point out that care should be exercised to prevent the acceptance of loans which are obviously sent for purposes of advertisement. This danger was commented upon by a Committee which reported in 1886. We have had no evidence to show that this danger has been a serious one; there being fewer examples in the South Kensington Museum to which this objection can be taken than in the Edinburgh Museum, or at Jernyn-street, where borax soap, and Messrs. Truffitt's hair washes are gravely exhibited as 'technological specimens.'—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"24. The circulation of scientific objects is almost entirely confined to schools and institutes. It would seem that the circulation on the science side is not in so great a request as on the art side; but there is, nevertheless, room for considerable development of this work, more particularly among the smaller townships. In the great industrial centres the schools already possess an equipment often better than that of the Royal College of Science itself. To such places South Kensington can be of little service. To the other places attention should be given. In 1896 only 59 places received loans. (See Appendix in annual reports).—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Question, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"(25.) We recommend that the museum of fish culture should be abolished. Previous recommendations to this effect have already been made. The secretary and the director both agree that it should be removed, and it has already been offered to two public bodies, being rejected by both. The fact is, that this collection is dangerous, owing to the large amount of alcohol in which the fish are stored; it is obsolete, not having been revised or increased for several years; and it does not carry out its obligations under the testamentary conditions of Professor Buckland's will. It occupies a good deal of space. Opinion being unanimous, we hope that this collection may disappear without delay.

"We have sketched a plan of a board of visitors for the art museum, but a somewhat analogous body already exists in the science museum. These gentlemen are unpaid, and they advise on questions of purchase, elimination, &c. This committee should be strengthened by the addition of several members, including the presidents for the time being of certain leading scientific societies. We also consider that their meetings should be held more regularly than has recently been the case, and that minutes of their proceedings should be regularly kept."—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Question, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Another



Another Amendment proposed that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

Festing, I.,  
2120, 2925.  
Festing, I., 2120.

Clarke, I., 3721.

Donnelly,  
I., 8437.  
App. I, No. 33.

Maunde  
Thompson,  
I., 6403, 6415.

"(26.) The important question of danger from fire has already been reported upon by this committee, and the Government has taken some steps to protect the museum. Fires have broken out in 1877, 1885, 1889, and 1897, possibly oftener, and although they have been 'very trifling,' it was necessary in one case to telegraph for all the engines that could be obtained. In spite of this, the fire burned for three hours, destroying 100 yards of the roof, as well as a large number of exhibits. In 1893 an expert made a long report on the danger from fire; a cursory glance at this will demonstrate the extraordinary dangers by which the museum has been threatened for years. Some of the recommendations made in this report have been adopted. The recent action of Her Majesty's Office of Works has minimised other dangers, but the risks are still grave. It would be tedious to refer to the details which require attention; we will content ourselves with pointing out that the standpipes and hose of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade are neither in screw nor diameter such as would fit the hydrants in the grounds of South Kensington (p. 8 of report). There is only one effective remedy, namely, that the entire responsibility should be handed over to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. This system works well at the British Museum, and does not interfere with the discipline of the museum staff. Outbreaks have not been prevented by the present arrangement at South Kensington. In every way it is advisable to place control in the hands of trained and expert professionals."—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

App., I., No. 11

"(27.) The question of fire is closely related to the question of buildings. As the temporary shedding is removed the danger will diminish.

App., I., No. 11

"(b.) An annual rental of 4,526*l.* is paid by the Science and Art Department for the buildings on the west side of Exhibition Road. We consider this sum quite excessive, as the buildings in question are of a most inferior character. One of them is the Refreshment Department of an exhibition held in the sixties. A large proportion of these buildings are not top-lighted.

App., I., No. 11.

"(c.) We also think that the annual rental of 1,073*l.* paid for the Jermyn Street buildings high, although in this case the building is substantial. We have already recommended the removal of this museum to South Kensington, where there is ample room for it; at Jermyn Street no extension can be hoped for. Capitalised at 25 years' purchase, the rental would be sufficient to erect a fine building adapted to modern ideas of museum construction.

"(d.) The offices and secretarial department should be removed to Whitehall as soon as the new Government buildings are completed. We understand that provision has already been made for this purpose by the First Commissioner of Works, and we express our full concurrence with his decision. This would give additional space at South Kensington; further space would also be gained by removing the barracks and canteen; also by abolishing the museum of fish culture."—(Lord *Balcarres*.)

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Postponed paragraphs 38, 40–43 and 53 by leave *withdrawn*.

Postponed paragraph 54 *agreed to*.

Postponed paragraph 55 amended and *agreed to*.

Postponed paragraph 56 by leave *withdrawn*.

Postponed paragraph 57 amended and *agreed to*.

Postponed paragraph 58 by leave *withdrawn*.

Postponed paragraph 59 *agreed to*.

Postponed paragraphs 63–66 by leave *withdrawn*.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

"(1.) Your Committee have observed, with regret, indications of acute controversy between persons in official positions at or in connection with the Museum at South Kensington, which has been an injury to the public service, and has brought discredit on the administration. They sincerely hope that all members of the staff will henceforth cordially co-operate, and thus, working together, endeavour to promote in the most effective manner the usefulness of the Museum."—(The *Chairman*).

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments



Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

“(2.) Your Committee have been confined by the order of reference to the Museum, but have found the relationship between the Schools and the Museums so intimate that they have been compelled to make some reference to the Schools in the course of their report.—(The *Chairman*).

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, that the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

“(33.) On the second day of our enquiry evidence was given to the Committee about a controversy which took place 15 years ago; this related to the purchase of ‘the Hillingford collection of armour.’ The evidence was quite irrelevant, having no bearing upon the system of purchase, and much time has been wasted upon the subject.”—(Lord *Balcarres*.)

Question proposed, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.

Amendments made.

Question, That this paragraph, as amended, be inserted in the proposed Report,—put, and agreed to.

Another Amendment proposed, That the following new paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report:

“We desire to record our opinion that the termination of the engagement of Mr. Weale, late keeper of the Art Library, immediately after the rising of the House in 1897, and subsequent to the giving of evidence by Mr. Weale, in which errors and abuses of administration at the Museum were freely exposed, very much resembles a breach of privilege and an infringement of the immunity usually enjoyed by witnesses before Committees of the House of Commons”—(Lord *Balcarres*).

Question put, That this paragraph be inserted in the proposed Report.—The Committee divided:

Ayes, 4.

Lord *Balcarres*.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes, 2.

Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.

Question proposed, That the Draft Report, as amended, be the Report of the Committee to the House—(The *Chairman*.)

Whereupon Motion made and Question, That the Committee do now adjourn (Lord *Balcarres*), put, and agreed to.

[Adjourned till Friday next, at Twelve o'clock.

*Friday, 29th July, 1898.*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sir FRANCIS POWELL, Bart., in the Chair.

Lord *Balcarres*.  
Mr. Bartley.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.

Sir H. Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Woodall.  
Mr. Yoxall.

The Committee deliberated.

Question put:

“That this Report, as amended, be the Report of the Committee to the House.”—The Committee divided:

Ayes 7.

Lord *Balcarres*.  
Mr. John Burns.  
Mr. Ernest Gray.  
Sir Henry Howorth.  
Mr. Humphreys-Owen.  
Mr. Kenrick.  
Mr. Yoxall.

Noes 3.

Mr. Bartley.  
Sir John Gorst.  
Mr. Woodall.

Ordered to Report.



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